MARVEL
10¢
COMICS
MYSTERY TALES
DEC. No. 89
WELL, TORCH, WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO NOW? HA HA!
LIQUID FLAME

15c SPORT PIX

BASEBALL * FOOTBALL
HOCKEY * BASKETBALL
BOXING * TENNIS
GOLF * WRESTLING
SWIMMING

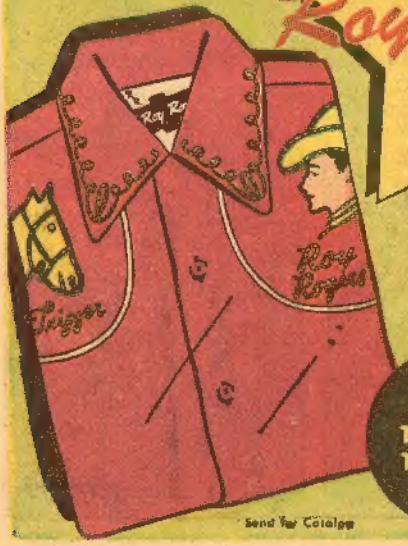
OVER 100
NEW PHOTOS
PLUS
BIG FEATURE ARTICLES

ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTAND NOW!

ADVERTISEMENT

Hi, Fellas! Here it is!

THE NEW OFFICIAL
Roy Rogers
Shirt



Send for Catalog

No. 555—"Trigger and Roy Rogers." Authentic design with names embroidered on pockets. A wonderful, long-wearing material

BE ONE OF THE FIRST TO WEAR ONE!

Western as the plains . . . it's the authentic "Roy Rogers" shirt for Boys and Girls from 4 to 18! Millions of Roy's "fans" all over the world are wearing them . . . millions more are wanting them . . . and here they are! Roy wears 'em in the movies . . . on radio shows . . . at the Rodeos! Boy — they're the best-looking shirts you've ever seen! So—get your order in right away!

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY!

HOLLYWOOD WESTERN SHIRT CO., INC.
Room 703, Loew's State Bldg., Los Angeles 14, Calif.

Please send me_____NO. 555 Roy Rogers Shirts.
Price: $5.00 (In Calif. add 3% State Sales Tax)

Size_____ (Boys' and girls' sizes only 4 to 18)

Color choice (Give three) _____

_____ _____

I enclose: $_____

☐ Cash ☐ Money Order ☐ Check ☐ C.O.D.

$1.00 MUST ACCOMPANY ALL C. O. D. ORDERS.
GOOD ONLY IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.

PLEASE PRINT

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ Zone_____ State_____

Enjoy Hilarious "Monkey-Shines" at your next Masquerade Party WITH THESE AMAZING LIFE-LIKE

RUBBER MASKS

COVER ENTIRE HEAD . . . LAST FOR YEARS . . . SO LIFELIKE PEOPLE GASP WITH AMAZEMENT AND DELIGHT...

Mold-Art Rubber Masks are molded from best grade natural flexible rubber. They cover the entire head. Yet you see thru the "eyes." The mouth moves with your lips . . . you breathe . . . smoke . . . talk . . . even eat thru it. Hand-painted for realism. Wonderful for every dress-up occasion—for parties or gifts. Fun for children and adults alike.

BOY! WOULD I HAVE FUN WITH THAT CLOWN FACE
YOU'RE FUNNIER WITH YOUR OWN
THE MYSTERIOUS CLOWN SURE HAS THE GIRLS ALL AGOG
WHO IS HE AND WHERE DID HE GET THAT MASK?

OTHER SUBJECTS
Beezer, $2.95
Special SANTA CLAUS, $4.95

IDIOT . . $2.95

Yes here is Halfwit in all his goofiness. People howl with laughter when you put on this life-like mask.

SEND NO MONEY!

Just mail coupon below. ORDER MASKS BY NAME as listed in this ad. All masks priced at $2.95, except Santa Claus ($4.95). When package arrives pay postman the price plus C.O. D. postage (we pay postage if cash is sent with order). Sanitary laws prohibit return of worn masks. All masks guaranteed perfect.

RUSH COUPON NOW!

Rubber-For-Molds, Inc.
6044 Avondale Ave., Dept.54 L Chicago 31, Illinois
Send me Rubber Masks as listed below:

( ) Ship C.O.D. I will pay postman the price plus C.O.D. postage.
( ) Ship postpaid. Payment in full enclosed herewith.

NAME_____
STREET_____ P.O. ZONE____
CITY_____ STATE____

RUBBER-FOR-MOLDS INC.
6044 Avondale Ave., Dept.54L, Chicago 31, Illinois

BOYS! — GIRLS! — Here's An Amazing New COMBINATION BALL PEN and MECHANICAL PENCIL that meets ALL Your Writing Needs

ATTENTION CLASS — OUR EXAMINATION PERIOD IS UP... PLEASE HAND IN YOUR PAPERS WHETHER FINISHED OR NOT.
AW-GEE! I'M NOT EVEN HALF THROUGH..
GIVE US MORE TIME!
BOY! ARE THESE PROBLEMS EVEN TOUGH!!!
NEXT DAY
I REGRET TO TELL YOU THAT HALF THE CLASS FAILED IN THE EXAMINATION, THE OTHERS RECEIVED VERY POOR GRADES WITH ONE EXCEPTION. GLORIA'S PAPER WAS PERFECT... A MODEL OF NEATNESS AND GOOD PENMANSHIP... GLORIA, WILL YOU PLEASE TELL US HOW YOU DID IT?
YOU SEE THIS SHINY BALL-PEN? WELL IT HAS A MECHANICAL PENCIL ON THE OTHER END. IN THE EXAM I DID ALL OF THE PROBLEMS IN PENCIL FIRST AND THEN COPIED THEM IN INK WITH MY BALL-PEN.

SEND NO MONEY! Just Mail Coupon! Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Refunded PLUS ONE DOLLAR EXTRA FOR YOUR TIME AND TROUBLE!

Accept this sensational new value . . . a combination Ball Point Pen and a Mechanical Pencil . . . all for only $1.95. Note the quality features shown at right . . . an all-metal pen . . . streamlined, unbreakable, satin finish barrel . . . 3 year supply of ink . . . automatic pencil with propel, repel, expel action includes eraser and supply of leads! These are features you ordinarily look for in pen-and-pencil combinations selling for many dollars higher. Now it's all yours for only $1.95. Mail coupon today.

GIRLS-BOYS! MAKE YOUR SCHOOL WORK PLEASANT EASY, QUICK WITH THIS WONDERFUL COMBINATION PEN AND PENCIL!

BALL POINT PEN ON THIS END
LOOK: UP TO 3 YEARS INK SUPPLY
LOOK - ALL METAL STREAMLINED SATIN FINISH UNBREAKABLE BARREL.
LOOK - NOT $15.00 NOT $10.00 NOT EVEN $5.00 - BUT ONLY $1.95
ONLY $1.95
LOOK! A QUALITY PENCIL WITH PROPEL, REPEL, EXPEL ACTION - COMPLETE WITH LEADS AND ERASERS
MECHANICAL PENCIL ON THIS END

DON'T SEND A PENNY. Pay postman only $1.95 plus C.O.D. postage when package arrives. Try this pen and pencil ten days. If you're not 100% delighted with the "buy" you've made . . . just return it. Martin King will not only refund your purchase price in full . . . HE WILL PAY YOU ONE DOLLAR EXTRA FOR YOUR TIME AND TROUBLE.

THE PENMAN
DEPT. 54L
179 N. MICHIGAN AVE.
CHICAGO 1, ILL.

MAIL COUPON NOW!

THE PENMAN, Dept. 54 L
179 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 1, Ill.

Send me 1948 Ball Point Pen and Mechanical Pencil unit. When package arrives, I will pay postman $1.95 plus C.O.D. postage. If I am not 100% satisfied, I will return it for my $1.95.

Name _____
(print plainly)

Street _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

BLONDE PHANTOM

HELLO, FRIENDS! AH, IT'S A PLEASURE TO LOOK INTO THIS SEA OF SMILING, FRIENDLY FACES!
YOU'RE IN FOR MYSTERY AND THRILLS—JUST AS THE GLAMOUR-GAL OF THE CRIMEFIGHTERS, THE BLONDE PHANTOM, WAS, WHEN A COUPLE OF WOULD-BE TOUGH GUYS CAME UP WITH A PLAN TO ERASE HER FROM HISTORY! STEP-BY-STEP, THE SCHEME WAS FOOL-PROOF! BIT-BY-BIT, EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE! BUT THEN...! OH, WELL, HOW CAN WE EXPLAIN THE ACTIONS OF A LOVELY LADY CRIMEFIGHTER? LET'S WATCH HER OPERATE AS SHE BROADCASTS...
"BENEFIT SHOW for HORROR!"
3830

EVERYTHING IN LIFE DEPENDS ON TWO THINGS: CAUSE AND EFFECT! HERE IS THE FIRST THING--THE *CAUSE!*

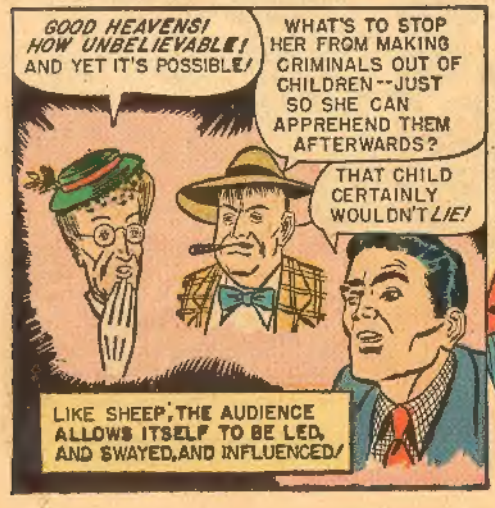
WELL, NAILS, WE DID IT! SHE GRABBED AT THE BAIT!
AT LAST! AFTER WEEKS OF PLANNING--WE FINALLY HAVE TAKEN CARE OF *THE BLONDE PHANTOM!*

IT'S VERY NICE OF YOU TO LET ME HAVE THE AFTERNOON OFF, MARK!
NOT AT ALL, LOUISE! IF YOU WANT TO GO TO THE BENEFIT FOR THE ORPHANS' HOME WHERE THE BLONDE PHANTOM IS MAKING HER SPEECH, I THINK IT'S VERY COMMENDABLE OF YOU! HAVE A NICE TIME!
MEANWHILE...

A FEW MINUTES LATER FINDS LOUISE ON HER WAY TO THE BENEFIT SHOW FOR THE ORPHANS' HOME...
THAT'S A GOOD ONE! THE BLONDE PHANTOM IS INVITED TO MAKE A SPEECH AND LOUISE GRANT TAKES AN AFTERNOON OFF TO LISTEN!
BANK
IN A SECLUDED SPOT, LOUISE CHANGES TO...
IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE BLONDE PHANTOM TO MAKE A SPEECH IF LOUISE GRANT DIDN'T GET THIS AFTERNOON OFF!
AT THAT MOMENT, BACKSTAGE AT THE BENEFIT HALL, A GRIM REHEARSAL TAKES PLACE...
DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR SPEECH NOW, JOAN?
SEE THAT YOU DON'T SLIP UP IF YOU EVER WANT TO SEE YOUR BROTHER AGAIN!
YES, SIR, MISTER NAILS-- I REMEMBER!
I'VE GOT TO GO NOW! PLEASE DON'T HURT MY BROTHER--I'LL DO AS YOU SAY!
TWO MINUTES!
WELL, THE BLONDE PHANTOM WILL HAVE CAUSE TONIGHT TO REGRET EVER SENDING US UP THE RIVER!
AND SO, THE MOMENT FOR THE BLONDE PHANTOM'S APPEARANCE HAS COME AND...
IN PERSON
THE BLONDE PHANTOM
PROCEEDS TO ORPHANS' HOME $1.00
ALL SEATS
YOU'RE ON IN ONE SECOND! WE HAVE A FULL HOUSE OUT THERE! THAT MEANS THE ORPHANS' HOME WILL RECEIVE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS--ALL DUE TO YOU, BLONDE PHANTOM!
I WAS HAPPY TO DO IT FOR THE CHILDREN! AND NOW-HERE I GO!
AND NOW THE FEATURE EVENT OF THE EVENING! IN PERSON--THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
2

BEFORE THE AMAZED EYES AND STARTLED EARS OF THE THOUSANDS IN THE AUDIENCE, THESE FANTASTIC WORDS ARE UTTERED!

DON'T BELIEVE A WORD THE BLONDE PHANTOM SAYS--SHE WANTS CHILDREN TO GROW UP TO BE CRIMINALS SO THAT SHE CAN CAPTURE THEM AND BECOME FAMOUS! SHE TRIED TO MAKE A CRIMINAL OUT OF ME, BUT I WOULDN'T LET HER!


GOOD HEAVENS! HOW UNBELIEVABLE! AND YET IT'S POSSIBLE!
WHAT'S TO STOP HER FROM MAKING CRIMINALS OUT OF CHILDREN--JUST SO SHE CAN APPREHEND THEM AFTERWARDS?
THAT CHILD CERTAINLY WOULDN'T LIE!
LIKE SHEEP, THE AUDIENCE ALLOWS ITSELF TO BE LED, AND SWAYED, AND INFLUENCED!

IT WORKED! IT WORKED!
AT LAST WE'VE HAD OUR REVENGE ON THE BLONDE PHANTOM! IT WAS WORTH WAITING FOR!
YOU'D BETTER GIVE ME THAT MIKE AND GET THIS GIRL OFF-STAGE!
I-I-I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I NEVER SAW HER BEFORE!
BOO!
DOWN WITH THE BLONDE PHANTOM!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE BE QUIET--THERE'S BEEN A M-MISTAKE!
AND *HOW* THERE HAS! IT WAS A MISTAKE TO EVER LISTEN TO THE BLONDE PHANTOM IN THE *FIRST* PLACE!
BOOOO!
DOWN WITH THE BLONDE PHANTOM!

THE BLONDE PHANTOM WASTES NO TIME GETTING TO THE CORE OF THE MATTER...
NOW, YOUNG LADY, *TALK!* WHO PUT YOU UP TO TELLING THAT STORY? HOW COULD YOU HAVE DONE SUCH A MEAN THING?
OH, BLONDE PHANTOM, IT WASN'T A MEAN THING--I DIDN'T MEAN TO--BUT THEY'D HAVE HARMED PAUL--I MEAN--

NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE--WHO IS *PAUL* AND WHO IS GOING TO HARM HIM? AND WHAT HAS THAT TO DO WITH WHAT YOU SAID OUT THERE? *COME ON--TALK!*
PAUL IS--MY BROTHER--AND THOSE TWO MEN TOOK HIM AWAY AND SAID THEY'D BEAT HIM UP IF I DIDN'T SAY WHAT I DID! HONEST, MISS BLONDE PHANTOM!

WHO ARE THE TWO MEN WHO PUT YOU UP TO THIS--WHO?
T-THERE! THEY'RE LEAVING NOW!
EXIT

WELL, WE DID IT! NOW LET'S GET BACK TO THAT KID PAUL AND GET RID OF HIM!
YEAH, WE WON'T NEED *HIM* ANY MORE!

BEFORE I DO ANYTHING, I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE LAD, PAUL, IS SAFE! AND FIRST I'VE GOT TO *FIND* HIM! AND THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT!
PFEFFT
PFEFFT

AND A FEW MINUTES LATER, THANKS TO THE BLONDE PHANTOM'S ACTION...
CONFOUND IT--THAT SOUNDS LIKE A *FLAT!*
WELL, LET'S LEAVE THE CAR AT THE CURB AND TAKE A CAB TO THE HIDE-OUT!

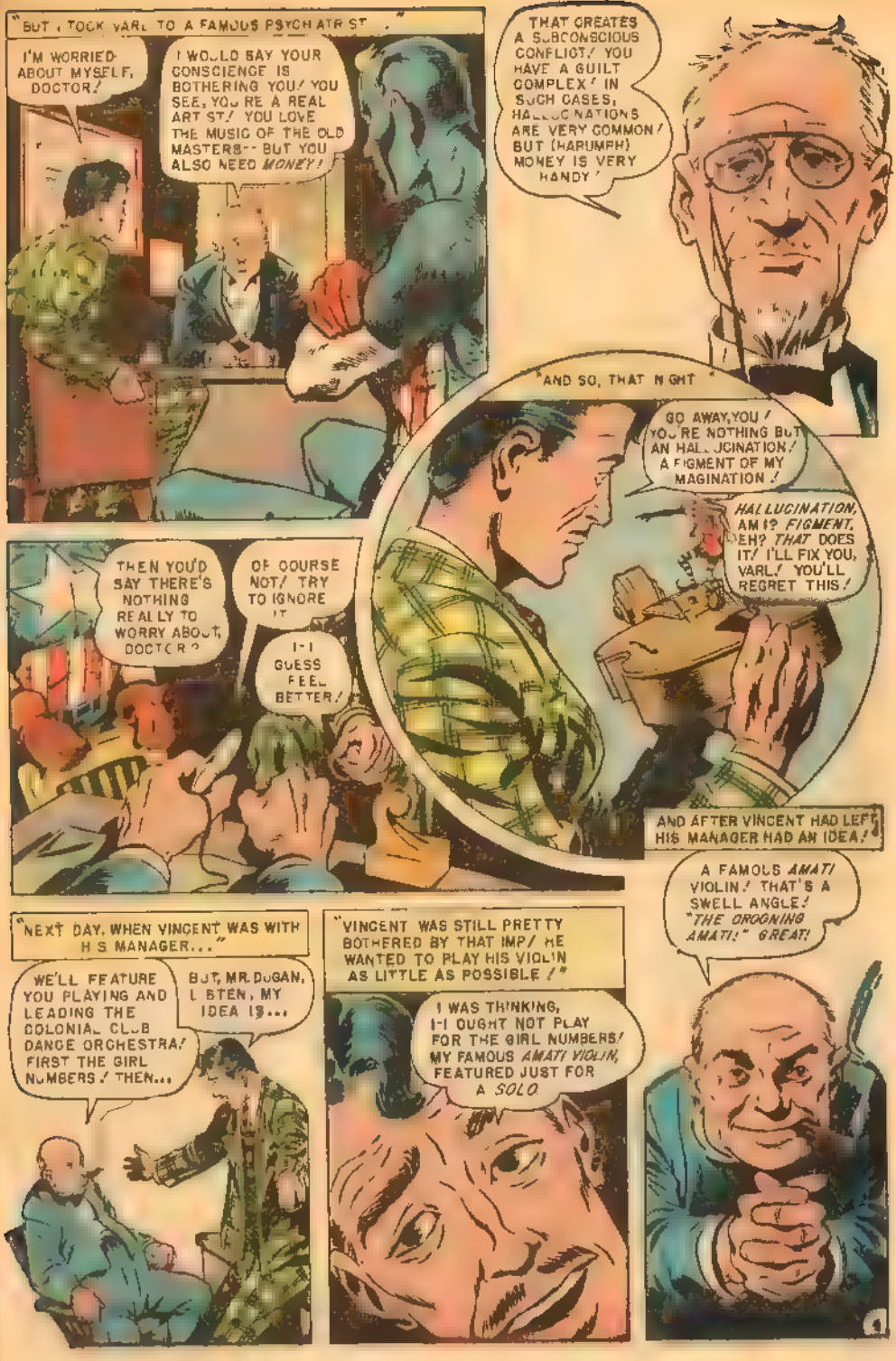
... AND SO, AFTER HAILING A CAB...
523 NEWBURY STREET, DRIVER-- AND STEP ON IT!
YES, SIR!
BUT LOOK WHO'S THE DRIVER OF THIS PARTICULAR CAB!
THANKS FOR TELLING ME WHERE YOU'VE GOT THAT BOY A PRISONER, GENTS!
IT'S THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
EEEH! LOOK!
I'LL CHOKE-- OWww!
UH! UH! MUSTN'T TOUCH!
MY HAND--IT'S OWWW!-- IT'S BEING CRUSHED!
TAKE IT EASY--I'LL-- I CAN'T OPEN IT--THE GLASS IS STUCK!
AFTER A SHORT, BREATH-TAKING RIDE, THE BLONDE PHANTOM BRINGS THE CAR TO A SUDDEN STOP IN FRONT OF 101 OAK STREET--A VERY SUDDEN STOP!
HERE WE ARE, GENTS! HANG ON!
OOOFF!
NOW TO FREE THE LAD BEFORE THEY REACH HIM!
THERE HE IS! DON'T WORRY, PAUL-- I'M HERE TO HELP YOU!
WITH A LUNGE OF HER LITHE FORM, THE BLONDE PHANTOM BREAKS DOWN THE THIN WALL OF THE BOY'S PRISON!
15

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE COTTAGE...
SHE MUST STILL BE IN THERE!
THIS TIME WE'LL TAKE NO CHANCES!
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? I WAS GETTING TIRED OF HANGING HERE!
THIS IS FOR KEEPING ME TIED UP!
CRACK!
AND SO, LATER, AT THE BENEFIT...
AND NOW, IF YOU FOLKS WILL BEAR WITH US FOR JUST A FEW MORE MOMENTS, I'M SURE THAT THE BLONDE PHANTOM WILL RETURN WITH--
I HAVE RETURNED--WITH AN INTERESTING STORY!
BOOO!
SEE, DARLING-- HERE'S YOUR BROTHER BACK-- SAFE AND SOUND! NOW WILL YOU TELL THESE PEOPLE THE TRUTH ABOUT ME--AND ABOUT THESE TWO HOODLUMS!
OH, YES! I WILL-- I WILL!
AND ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, PEOPLE HEAR...
...AND I WAS FORCED TO SAY WHAT I SAID ABOUT THE BLONDE PHANTOM, OR ELSE THEY SAID THEY'D HURT MY BROTHER! NONE OF IT WAS TRUE--THE BLONDE PHANTOM IS WONDERFUL!
EVERYTHING IN LIFE DEPENDS ON TWO THINGS! CAUSE AND EFFECT! HERE IS THE CAUSE...
WELL, SHE BEAT US AGAIN--BUT WHEN WE GET OUT OF JAIL THIS TIME, NAILS, I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT'LL REALLY MAKE HER SORRY!
AND HERE WE HAVE THE EFFECT..
HE TALKS TOO MUCH, DOESN'T HE?
THE END

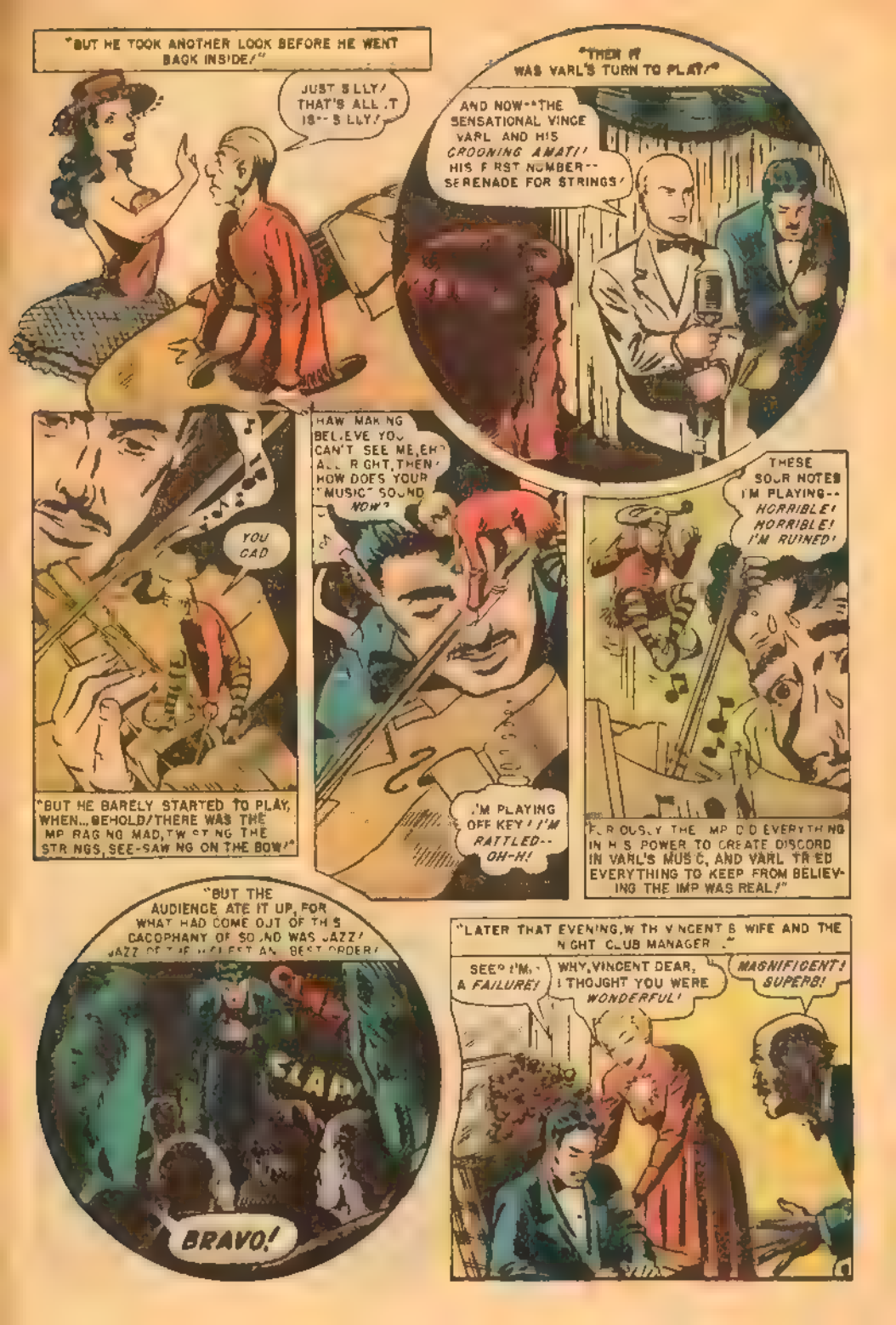
CAPTAIN AMERICA
YOU TRAITOR! YOU'VE RUINED THIS VIOLIN WHICH HAS BEEN MY HOME FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS! I'LL FIX YOU! I'LL PLAGUE YOU WITH A DOOM FROM WHICH NOBODY CAN SAVE YOU...NOT EVEN CAPTAIN AMERICA!
WOW! LOOK OUT! SOMEBODY'S AWFUL MAD...AND HE'S NOT FOOLING! THIS WEIRD LITTLE CHARACTER IS CAPABLE OF A FURY UNKNOWN TO MORTAL MAN AND HE'S GOING TO TAKE IT OUT ON A VIOLINIST WHO PLAYS JAZZ ON AN ANCIENT INSTRUMENT! EXCITING? YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT, UNTIL YOU READ...
"The IMP OF THE VIOLIN!"
3775
DO YOU LIKE JAZZ AND BOOGIE WOOGIE? SO DO I! BUT THERE WAS ONCE A LITTLE FELLOW WHO DIDN'T! I NEVER ACTUALLY SAW HIM, BUT
"THE THING REALLY BEGAN WHEN I WENT TO A FRIEND'S CONCERT! VINCENT VARL PLAYED THE MUSIC OF THE OLD MASTERS BEAUTIFULLY! HE WAS A REAL ARTIST!"
ALMOST NOBODY HERE! THEY DON'T APPRECIATE VINCENT!
PEOPLE STAY AWAY BECAUSE HE'S TOO ARTISTIC! HIS STUFF IS TOO CLASSICAL!
YES! I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!

"VARL'S WIFE WAS A VERY PRACTICAL WOMAN!"
LOOK, VINCENT, THIS LONG-HAIRED STUFF IS GRAND, BUT WE DON'T WANT TO STARVE TO DEATH! NOW LISTEN...
ME PLAY JAZZ? I'LL NEVER DO IT-- NEVER! I'M AN ARTIST!
BUT VINCENT LOST THE ARGUMENT! HERE'S WHAT I SAW A FEW WEEKS LATER!
WOW! WHAT'S THIS? VARL HAS GONE POPULAR!
PAGE 5
STAR
NEW ACT
COLONIAL NIGHT CLUB
OPENS SATURDAY
VINCE VARLE
and his crooning VIOLIN!
"VINCENT HAD TO TO PRACTICE JAZZ, OF COURSE! AND ONE NIGHT, ALONE IN HIS STUDIO..."
OH
STORMY SKIES--
POP!
"HE REPLACED THE BROKEN STRING! BUT..."
THOSE HORSE AND BUGGY BLUES
POP!
POP!
DOGGONE! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE STRINGS?
" SUDDENLY, A LITTLE FIGURE POPPED OUT OF THE VIOLIN!"
WHA—?
YOU— YOU—YOU VILLAIN! HOW DARE YOU DO THAT TO ME?
PLAYING JAZZ ON AN AMATI VIOLIN! DISGRACING A GREAT NAME AND A GREAT INSTRUMENT! YOU CAN'T DO THAT... NOT WHILE I'M ITS GUARDIAN IMP!
FOR THE LOVE OF BRAHMS! AN IMP! A REAL LIVE IMP! AND HE CAME OUT OF THE VIOLIN!
WHERE ELSE? AND BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH YOU, I'LL MAKE YOU SORRY YOU EVER PLAYED JAZZ ON AN AMATI! HMPH!

OOOH! I'M SEEING THINGS! I'M... OOOH!
HEY! BE CAREFUL, YOU CRAZY IDIOT!
HMM* THE SISSY FAINTED! THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE TO MAKE HIM DREAM ABOUT HOW I BEGAN! IT'LL CONFUSE HIM MORE THAN EVER! DREAM, YARL! DREAM!
"AND DREAM HE DID, OF THE WORKSHOP OF NICOLA AMATI BACK IN THE 16TH CENTURY!
THIS ONE WILL BE MY MASTERPIECE! HIGH ARCH, SWEET AND DULCET TONE!
THE FINEST AMATI EVER MADE! MY MASTERPIECE!
I'M GONNA TAKE THAT ONE, I TELL YOU! GET AWAY FROM HERE, YOU FELLOWS!
NO! NO ME! ME!
ALL FINISHED! AND IT WILL DO JUSTICE TO THE GREATEST MUSIC EVER COMPOSED!
ME! ME!
ME! ME!
GO PICK A STRAD, YOU FELLOWS! THE STRADIVARIUS SHOP IS JUST DOWN THE STREET! GO ON! THIS IS MINE!
"NOW WHEN YOU GET TO SEE THINGS LIKE THAT NATURALLY YOU'RE WORRIED! VINCENT TOLD HIS WIFE ALL ABOUT IT!"
THERE'S SOMETHING THE MATTER WITH ME! LISTEN...
YOU'RE JUST TOO HIGH-STRUNG VINCENT! YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS! ALL ARTISTS ARE LIKE THAT!
3


"BUT, I TOOK VARL TO A FAMOUS PSYCHIATRIST..."
I'M WORRIED ABOUT MYSELF, DOCTOR!
I WOULD SAY YOUR CONSCIENCE IS BOTHERING YOU! YOU SEE, YOU'RE A REAL ART ST! YOU LOVE THE MUSIC OF THE OLD MASTERS-- BUT YOU ALSO NEED MONEY!
THAT CREATES A SUBCONSCIOUS CONFLICT! YOU HAVE A GUILT COMPLEX! IN SUCH CASES, HALLUCINATIONS ARE VERY COMMON! BUT (HARUMPH) MONEY IS VERY HANDY!
"AND SO, THAT NIGHT..."
GO AWAY, YOU! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT AN HALLUCINATION! A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION!
HALLUCINATION, AM I? FIGMENT, EH? THAT DOES IT! I'LL FIX YOU, VARL! YOU'LL REGRET THIS!
THEN YOU'D SAY THERE'S NOTHING REALLY TO WORRY ABOUT, DOCTOR?
OF COURSE NOT! TRY TO IGNORE IT
I-I GUESS I FEEL BETTER!
AND AFTER VINCENT HAD LEFT, HIS MANAGER HAD AN IDEA!
A FAMOUS AMATI VIOLIN! THAT'S A SWELL ANGLE! "THE CROONING AMATI!" GREAT!
"NEXT DAY, WHEN VINCENT WAS WITH HIS MANAGER..."
WE'LL FEATURE YOU PLAYING AND LEADING THE COLONIAL CLUB DANCE ORCHESTRA! FIRST THE GIRL NUMBERS! THEN...
BUT, MR. DUGAN, LISTEN, MY IDEA IS...
"VINCENT WAS STILL PRETTY BOTHERED BY THAT IMP! HE WANTED TO PLAY HIS VIOLIN AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE!"
I WAS THINKING, I-I OUGHT NOT PLAY FOR THE GIRL NUMBERS! MY FAMOUS AMATI VIOLIN, FEATURED JUST FOR A SOLO

"VINCENT WAS PRETTY STARTLED BY THE NEW FLOOD OF ADS/ AND SO WAS THE IMP!"
OH, DEAR! LOOK AT HOW I'M ADVERTISED/ IT'S...IT'S AWFUL!
AWFUL ISN'T THE WORD FOR IT! IT'S DISGUSTING! OOH! I'M SO ANGRY..SO UPSET!
HEAR THE CROONING AMATI! COLONIAL NIGHT-CLUB SENSATION! FAMOUS VIOLIN THROBS WITH RHYTHM!
SO I THROB WITH HOT RHYTHM, DO I? YOU'LL SEE! YOU'LL SEE!
BUT..I CAN'T HELP ALL THIS! IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
I WASN'T AT THE COLONIAL CLUB OPENING NIGHT! MY BUSINESS TOOK ME OUT OF TOWN! BUT VINCENT TOLD ME ABOUT IT...
"...AT THE AFTERNOON REHEARSAL..."
YOUR VIOLINS...THEY WOULDN'T BE STRADS OR AMATIS, OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, WOULD THEY?
ARE YOU KIDDING? HAH! A FIDDLE! THAT'S WHAT MINE IS!
WELL, THANK GOODNESS THERE'LL ONLY BE ONE IMP AROUND HERE TONIGHT!
"VARL DIDN'T HAVE TO PLAY DURING THE REVUE/ HE SAT SECLUDED AT ONE SIDE/ AND..."
HELLO! WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?
NOT BAD EH?
HUMPH! THAT'S SILLY STUFF!


"BUT HE TOOK ANOTHER LOOK BEFORE HE WENT BACK INSIDE!"
JUST S LLY! THAT'S ALL .T IS--S LLY!
"THEN IT WAS VARL'S TURN TO PLAY!"
AND NOW--"THE SENSATIONAL VINCE VARL AND HIS CROONING AMATI! HIS F RST NUMBER-- SERENADE FOR STRINGS!
YOU CAD
"BUT HE BARELY STARTED TO PLAY, WHEN...BEHOLD! THERE WAS THE MP RAG NG MAD, TW ST NG THE STR NGS, SEE-SAW NG ON THE BOW!"
HAW HAW NG BEL EVE YOU CAN'T SEE ME, EH? ALL R GHT, THEN! HOW DOES YOUR "MUSIC" SOUND NOW?
I'M PLAYING OFF KEY! I'M RATTLED-- OH-H!
THESE SOUR NOTES I'M PLAYING-- HORRIBLE! HORRIBLE! I'M RUINED!
F R OUSLY THE MP D D EVERYTH NG IN H S POWER TO CREATE DISCORD IN VARL'S MUS C, AND VARL TR ED EVERYTHING TO KEEP FROM BELIEV- ING THE IMP WAS REAL!"
"BUT THE AUDIENCE ATE IT UP, FOR WHAT HAD COME OUT OF TH S CACOPHANY OF SO ND WAS JAZZ! JAZZ OF THE WILDEST AN BEST ORDER!
CLAP
BRAVO!
"LATER THAT EVENING, W TH V NCENT S WIFE AND THE N GHT CLUB MANAGER ."
SEE? I'M A FAILURE!
WHY, VINCENT DEAR, I THOUGHT YOU WERE WONDERFUL!
MAGNIFICENT! SUPERB!

"AND THE COLUMNISTS SAID"
MY GOODNESS! THEY REALLY LIKED ME! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
BAH! YOU WERE AWFUL, THANKS TO ME! BY THE WAY, WHAT'S THE NAME OF THAT CUTE BLONDE IN THE CHORUS?
3L BLAZES
AFTER DARK
BY LEO WANSE
VINCE VARL A HIT AT COLONIAL CLUB!
A NEW TYPE OF BLUE NOTES, SOBBING FROM THE CROONING AMATI OF VINCE VARL, WOWED THE CUSTOMERS AT THE COLONIAL CLUB LAST NIGHT! THE SUPERB ARTISTRY OF VARL, BOLDLY PIONEERING INTO OFF-PITCH SYNCOPATION BROU
THE
WHAT DO YOU CARE? YOU'RE ONLY SOMETHING I IMAGINE! YOU'RE A FRAUD, IMP. A PHONEY!
YOU..YOU...
"AND THE NEXT NIGHT, DURING THE REVUE ..."
SHE'S SORT OF CUTE, AT THAT!
TO THINK OF ALL THE YEARS I WASTED COOP UP IN THAT FIDDLE AND ALL THE WHILE THIS WAS GOING ON! WHEEE!
"NATURALLY, VINCENT MADE A LOT OF MONEY! IT WAS VERY NICE INDEED! THE NEW HOME MRS. VARL PICKED OUT WAS BEAUTIFUL"
OH, VINCENT DEAR ISN'T IT JUST PERFECTLY WONDERFUL! I'M SO HAPPY!
"THEIR NEW CAR WAS VERY SNAPPY!"
THIS LIFE OF LUXURY IS QUITE THE THING, ISN'T IT?
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO IT, VINCENT, BUT THE MUSIC YOU PLAY REALLY IS POPULAR!
"AND THEN, ONE NIGHT, IT HAPPENED! THE MP VAN SHED INTO THE VIOLIN AND DIDN'T COME OUT! SOMEHOW, VINCENT WAS CONTRITE! ALONE WITH HIS AMATI, HE ..."
WELL, AT LEAST HE MIGHT COME OUT AND SAY HELLO TO ME! HE'S HEARTBROKEN! THAT'S WHAT I'VE DONE TO HIM!
7

"THEN A MOMENT LATER, AS VINCENT WAS PRACTICING"
THERE HE IS!
MY DEAR LITTLE FRIEND DEAD
HI
AND WHEN VINCENT STOPPED PLAYING
HUH?
THAT WAS SWELL... HOW ABOUT A RHUMBA NEXT? LIKE THIS
ONE TWO THREE JUMP ONE TWO THREE JUMP
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! YOU HATE JAZZ AND DANCING AND STUFF REMEMBER?
WHO ME?
KEEP GOIN, VINCE OLD BOY THIS IS THE LIFE
HEY! CUT IT OUT! WHERE ARE WE GOING?
C'MON! YOU'RE DUE AT THE CLUB! YOU'VE GOT A DATE WITH A BAND AND I'VE GOT A DATE WITH A BLONDE!
AND THAT'S THE STORY, FRIENDS! MUSIC CAN SOOTHE THE SAVAGE BEAST, THEY SAY BUT LOOK AT WHAT MUSIC AND LOVE DID IN THIS CASE!
SHE CAN'T SEE ME BUT I CAN SEE HER AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS BOP REBOP-BOP! THIS IS THE LIFE!
THE END

RED UNIT

Annie Oakley
Blackstone the Magician
Blonde Phantom
Complete Mystery Stories
Crimefighters Always Win
Georgie
Ideal Comics
Joker Comics
Justice
Lawbreakers Always Lose
Margie
Marvel Mystery Comics
Millie the Model
Namora
Nellie the Nurse
Patsy Walker
Sub-Mariner
Sun Girl
Team Comics
Tessie the Typist
Tex Morgan
Two-Gun Kid
Wild Western
Willie

BLUE-YELLOW UNIT

All-True Crime Cases
All Winners
Blaze Carson
Captain America
Cindy
Comedy Comics
Frankie
Gay Comics
Hedy de Vine
Human Torch
Jeanie
Junior Miss
Kid Colt
Krazy Komics
Lana
Mitzi
My Romance
Oscar
Powerhouse Pepper
Rusty
Super Rabbit
Tex Taylor
The Witness
Venus
Wacky Duck

MARVEL COMIC GROUP

Hi, Friends:

The editors of this magazine would like to ask you an important question —— Why are you reading this magazine?

We believe the answer is that you enjoy comics, and that you enjoy reading this particular comic.

We want to help you protect your right to buy and read your favorite magazines, as long as they contain nothing that might be harmful to you. That is why we are writing you this open letter.

Lately, lots of people have been criticizing comics. They have been saying that comics teach you youngsters things that are not good for you, things like violence, cruelty, immorality, etc.

Some time back, we were fortunate in obtaining editorial advice from Dr. Jean Thompson, a psychiatrist in the Child Guidance Bureau of the New York City Board of Education. Dr. Thompson read our magazines, approved our stories generally, gave us suggestions for the finest kind of stories, and agreed to serve as editorial consultant on all future magazines. She will insure the fact that our comics contain nothing that might meet with objections from your parents, teachers or friends.

That is <u>our</u> answer to the charge that comics are bad.

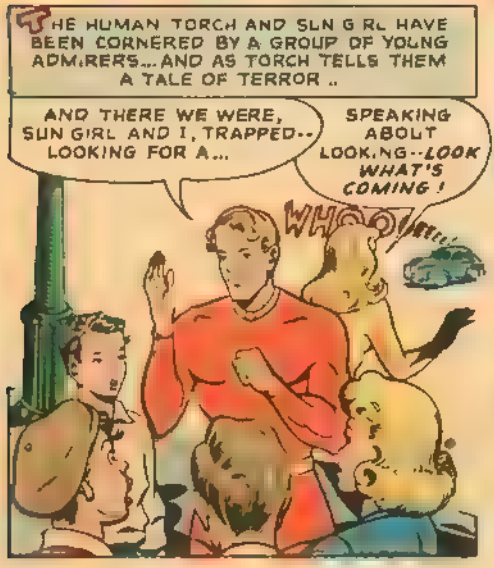
Now, this is the way we can help <u>you</u> keep the privilege of buying and reading what you want. The magazines listed on this page are all in the Marvel Comic Group. Look through them, and you will see that there is nothing in these magazines that could possibly be considered harmful. Then show them to the critics of comics. Prove to those people that here is reading matter that no one can criticize.

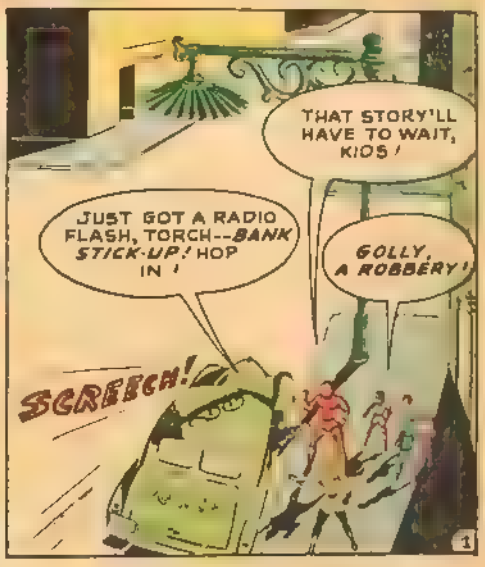
Use judgment. Buy only the best comics, like the magazines listed on this page, or any of the other <u>good</u> ones, and prove to people that the magazines <u>you</u> read are above criticism.

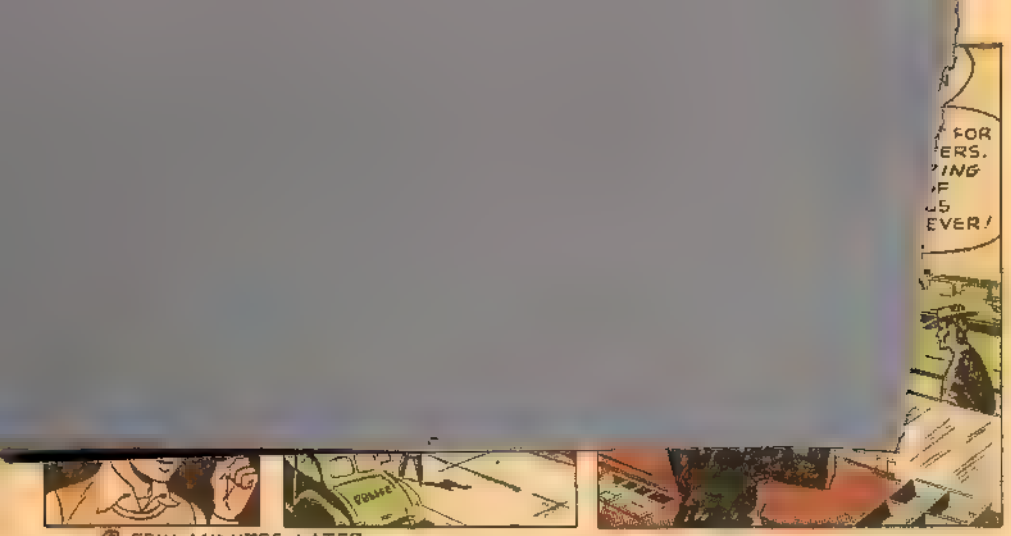
If you do that, no one will ever want to take your magazines away from you.

The Editors
Marvel Comic Group

STUDIO
STOP WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING! DON'T DARE PUT THIS MAGAZINE AS DE UNTIL YOU READ THIS STORY! THERE IS A MYSTERY H DDEN HERE, A TALE OF CR ME AND SUSPENSE. A VILLAIN S PROWL NG IN AND OUT OF TS PAGES, LURK NG, WA T NG TO STRIKE AND WHEN HE STR KES HIS VICTIMS TURN TO STONE! SO-- BE CAREFUL! HE IS RUTHLESS AND DANGEROUS.. A MENACE! A MENACE FOR THE HUMAN TORCH AND SUN GIRL TO COMBAT... IF POSSIBLE!


THE HUMAN TORCH AND SUN G RL HAVE BEEN CORNERED BY A GROUP OF YOUNG ADMIRERS... AND AS TORCH TELLS THEM A TALE OF TERROR ..
AND THERE WE WERE, SUN GIRL AND I, TRAPPED-- LOOKING FOR A...
SPEAKING ABOUT LOOKING--LOOK WHAT'S COMING!
WHOOSH!


THAT STORY'LL HAVE TO WAIT, KIDS!
JUST GOT A RADIO FLASH, TORCH--BANK STICK-UP! HOP IN!
GOLLY, A ROBBERY!
SCREECH!
1



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

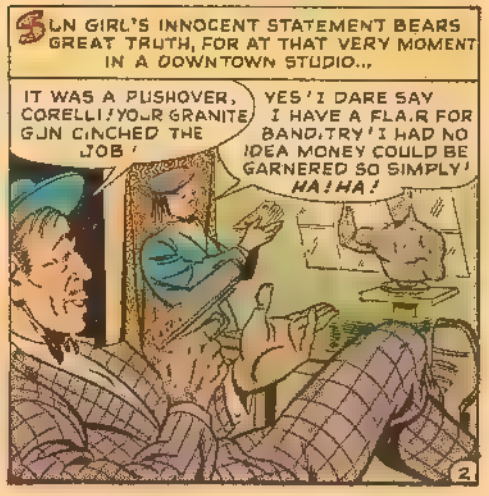
START ON THE GUARD! I'M SURE HE'S INSIDE THAT GRANITE COVERING!
YOIKS! I COULDN'T HAVE CARVED A BETTER STATUE FOR A GRAVE IN A MILLION YEARS!

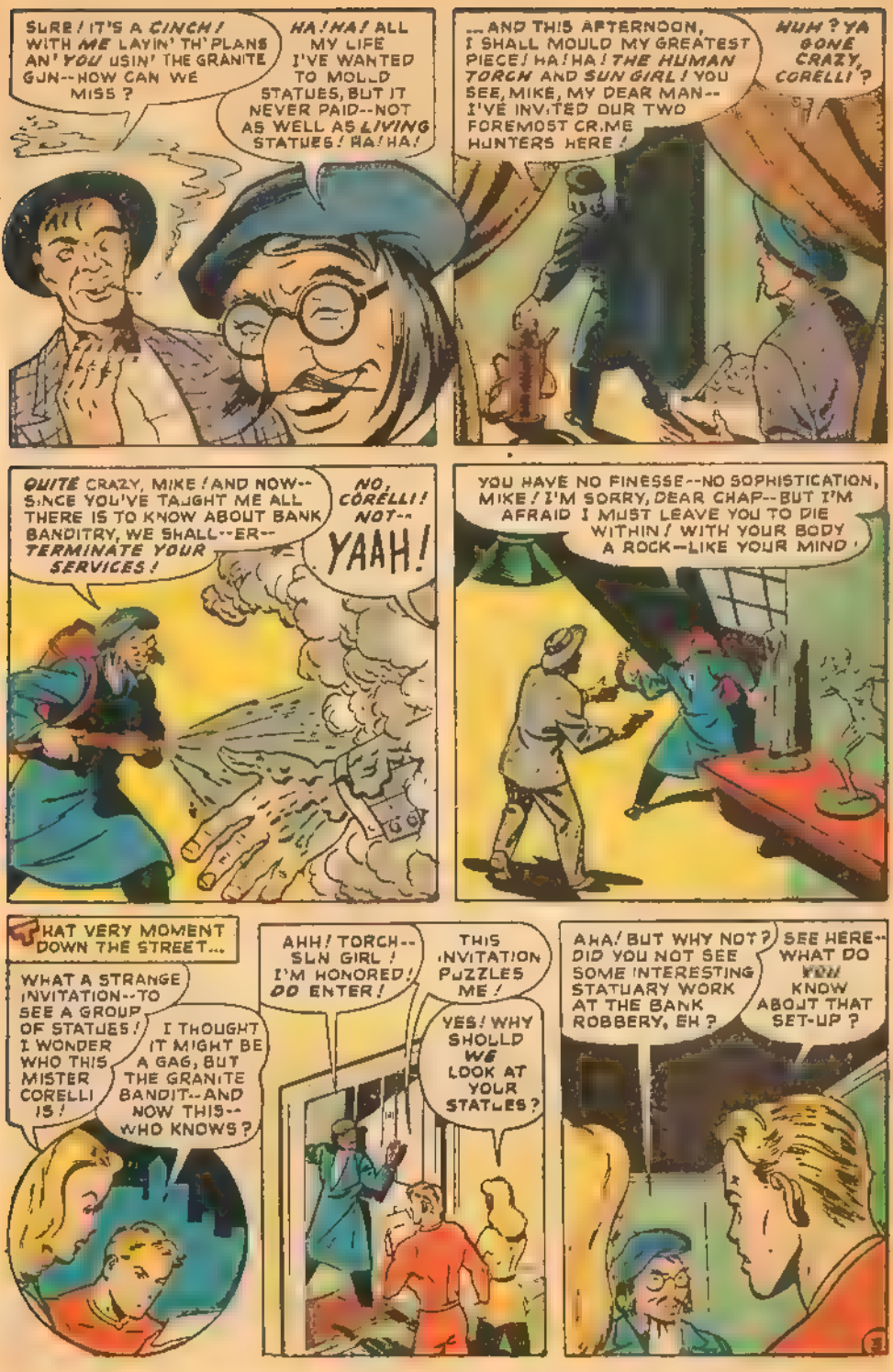
THE STONE CUTTER GOES TO WORK, AND IN A SHORT TIME..

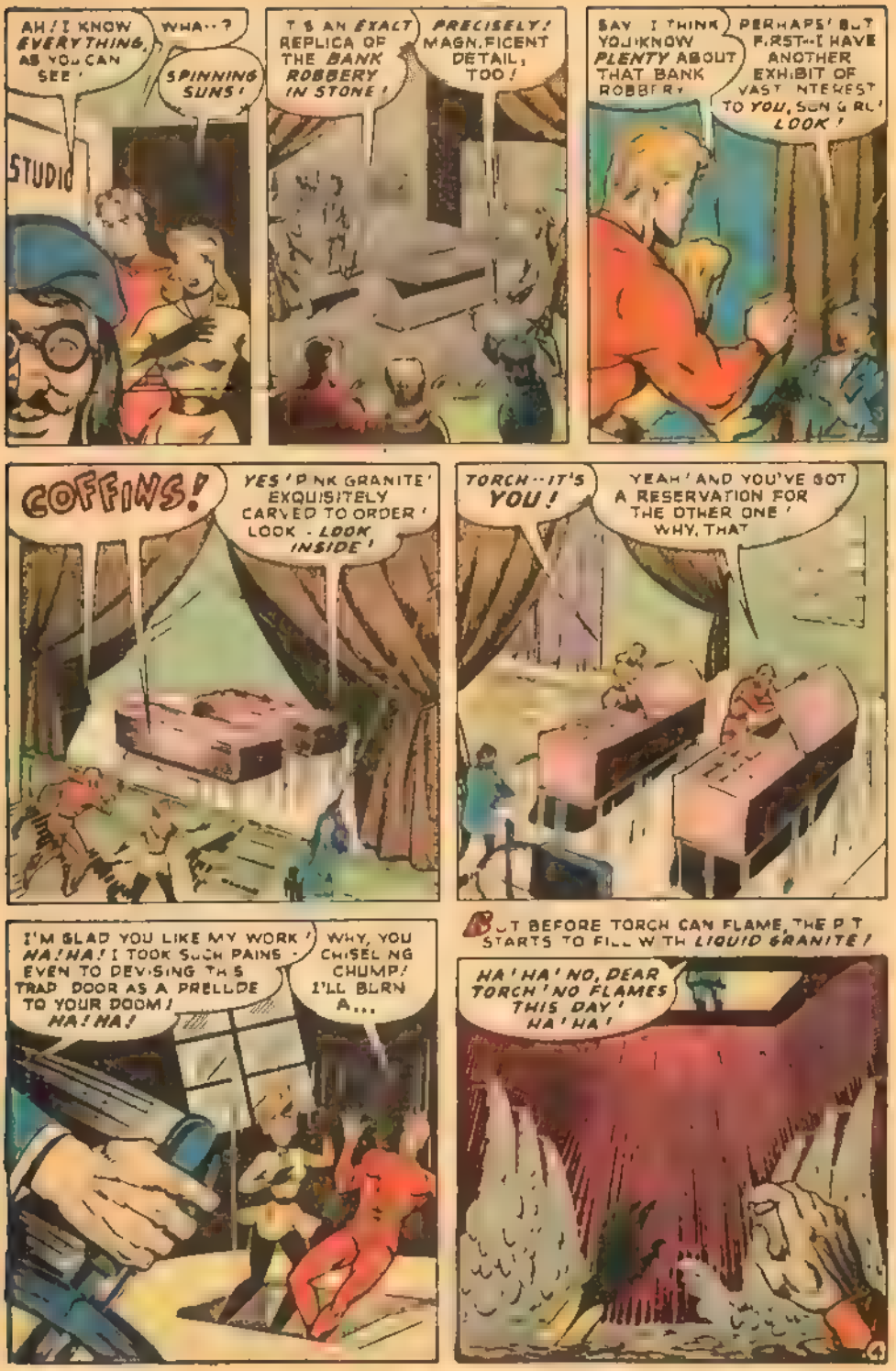
THERE WERE FIVE OF THEM! ONE HAD A PECULIAR LOOKING APPARATUS STRAPPED TO--OUCH! EASY WITH THAT CHISEL-- TO HIS BACK!
AND YOU SAY YOU WERE ALL SPRAYED WITH THIS LIQUID STONE WHICH HARDENED IMMEDIATELY ON CONTACT?

THAT'S RIGHT!
HMMM. SCULPTORS SOMETIMES USE A SUBSTANCE WHICH HARDENS INTO STONE! HMMM..
HA! ARE YOU THINKING SOME SCULPTOR IS CARVING HIMSELF A CAREER? SOUNDS ABSURD!

SUN GIRL'S INNOCENT STATEMENT BEARS GREAT TRUTH, FOR AT THAT VERY MOMENT IN A DOWNTOWN STUDIO...


IT WAS A PUSHOVER, CORELLI! YOUR GRANITE GUN CINCHED THE JOB!
YES! I DARE SAY I HAVE A FLAIR FOR BANDITRY! I HAD NO IDEA MONEY COULD BE GARNERED SO SIMPLY! HA! HA!


SURE! IT'S A CINCH! WITH ME LAYIN' TH' PLANS AN' YOU USIN' THE GRANITE GUN--HOW CAN WE MISS?
HA! HA! ALL MY LIFE I'VE WANTED TO MOLD STATUES, BUT IT NEVER PAID--NOT AS WELL AS LIVING STATUES! HA! HA!
...AND THIS AFTERNOON, I SHALL MOULD MY GREATEST PIECE! HA! HA! THE HUMAN TORCH AND SUN GIRL! YOU SEE, MIKE, MY DEAR MAN--I'VE INVITED OUR TWO FOREMOST CRIME HUNTERS HERE!
HUH? YA GONE CRAZY, CORELLI?
QUITE CRAZY, MIKE! AND NOW--SINCE YOU'VE TAUGHT ME ALL THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT BANK BANDITRY, WE SHALL--ER--TERMINATE YOUR SERVICES!
NO, CORELLI! NOT--
YAAH!
YOU HAVE NO FINESSE--NO SOPHISTICATION, MIKE! I'M SORRY, DEAR CHAP--BUT I'M AFRAID I MUST LEAVE YOU TO DIE WITHIN! WITH YOUR BODY A ROCK--LIKE YOUR MIND!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT DOWN THE STREET...
WHAT A STRANGE INVITATION--TO SEE A GROUP OF STATUES! I WONDER WHO THIS MISTER CORELLI IS!
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A GAG, BUT THE GRANITE BANDIT--AND NOW THIS--WHO KNOWS?
AHH! TORCH--SUN GIRL! I'M HONORED! DO ENTER!
THIS INVITATION PUZZLES ME!
YES! WHY SHOULD WE LOOK AT YOUR STATUES?
AHA! BUT WHY NOT? DID YOU NOT SEE SOME INTERESTING STATUARY WORK AT THE BANK ROBBERY, EH?
SEE HERE--WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT SET-UP?


AH! I KNOW EVERYTHING, AS YOU CAN SEE!
WHA··?
SPINNING SUNS!
STUDIO
IT'S AN EXACT REPLICA OF THE BANK ROBBERY IN STONE!
PRECISELY! MAGNIFICENT DETAIL, TOO!
SAY I THINK YOU KNOW PLENTY ABOUT THAT BANK ROBBERY
PERHAPS! BUT FIRST··I HAVE ANOTHER EXHIBIT OF VAST INTEREST TO YOU, SON & GIRL! LOOK!
COFFINS!
YES! PINK GRANITE! EXQUISITELY CARVED TO ORDER! LOOK - LOOK INSIDE!
TORCH··IT'S YOU!
YEAH! AND YOU'VE GOT A RESERVATION FOR THE OTHER ONE! WHY, THAT
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE MY WORK! HA! HA! I TOOK SUCH PAINS - EVEN TO DEVISING THIS TRAP DOOR AS A PRELUDE TO YOUR DOOM! HA! HA!
WHY, YOU CHISELING CHUMP! I'LL BURN A...
BUT BEFORE TORCH CAN FLAME, THE PIT STARTS TO FILL WITH LIQUID GRANITE!
HA! HA! NO, DEAR TORCH! NO FLAMES THIS DAY! HA! HA!
4

HA! HA! JUST GOT THESE BREATHING TUBES DOWN IN TIME! THE GRANITE'S HARDENED COMPLETELY! AHH! 'TIS SUCH A HORRIBLE WAY TO DIE, TORCH! BUT IN DEATH YOU HAVE COMPANY... EH, SUN GIRL?

AND NOW, OFF TO BIGGER AND BETTER CRIMES-- MUCH THE EASIER TO ACCOMPLISH WITH YOU TWO OUT OF THE WAY! HA! HA!

FASER IS RIGHT, FOR THAT VERY NIGHT.

VICTIMS TURN INTO GRANITE STATUES! POLICE ARE...

DAILY COMET

GRANITE BANDIT STRIKES AGAIN

FIFFINY JEWELRY CO ROBBED BY GRANITE BANDIT!

CONSTERNATION REIGNS AT THE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AS...

WHERE'S TORCH? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU GUYS? WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TRAP THE *GRANITE BANDIT*?

WELL, I--ER.

IT'S THIS WAY--ER

TWO HOURS LATER, IN A PUBLIC SQUARE.

GRRR! KIDNAPED US IN OUR OWN CAR! WE'VE BEEN *DISGRACED!*

IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON THAT GRANITE BANDIT AGAIN, I'LL...

I'M HANDING IN MY RESIGNATION, D.A.!

THIS IS THE RESULT OF THE BANDIT'S LATEST ESCAPADE-HUMILIATION FOR THE D.A. AND HIS ASS STANTS...

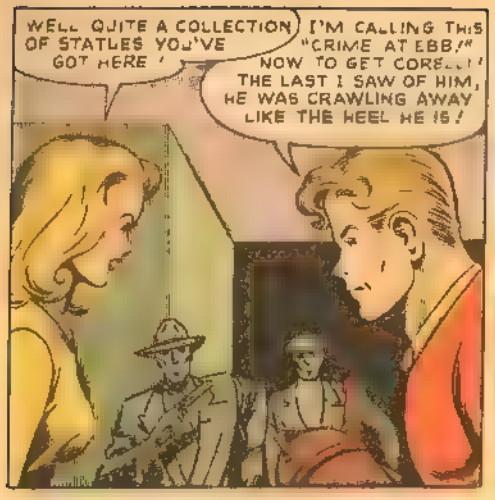
MEANWHILE...

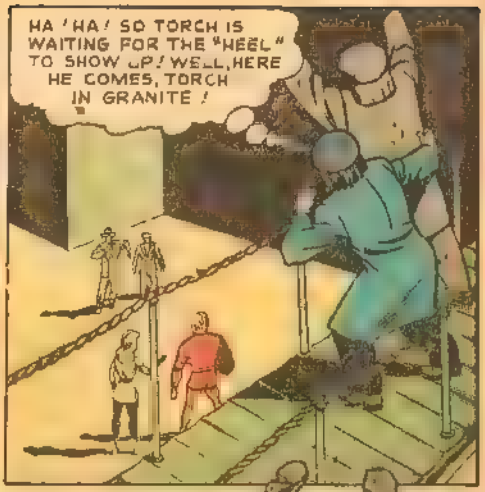
HA! HA! HA! WHAT A HAUL--AND KIDNAPING THE COMMISSIONER, THE D.A. AND POLICE CAPTAIN PUT A NICE FINISHING TOUCH TO THE DAY'S WORK! AHHH! NOW TO TELL TORCH AND SUN GIRL--IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!

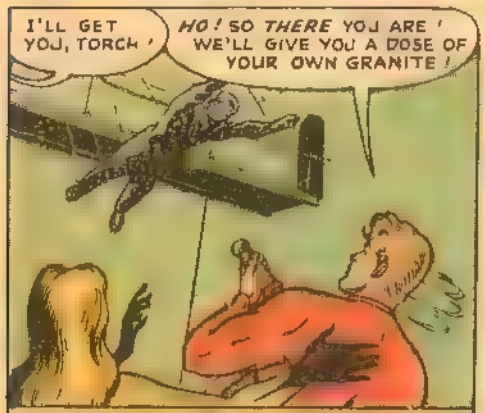
STUDIO

HA! HA! AND YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN YOUR FRIENDS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE! WERE THEY SURPRISED! HA! HA!

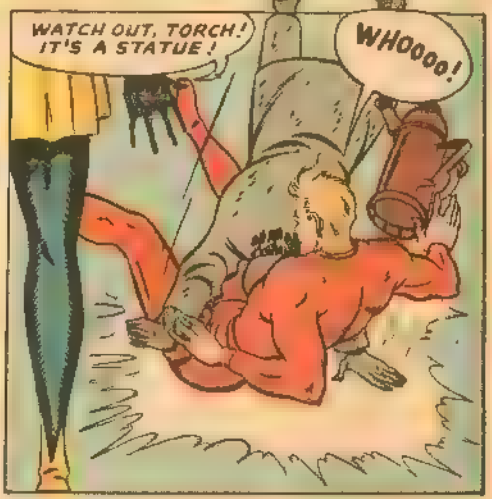
BUT SUDDENLY .
HERE'S A SURPRISE FOR YOU, CORELLI!
YOU MADE A M STAKE IN PUTT.NG DOWN THOSE BREATHER TUBES! TORCH BURNED A TUNNEL OUT FOR US!
WHAAA -?
WELL, LOOKS L.KE YOU'RE IN TWO PLACES AT ONE TIME!
TH NK YOU'RE SMART, EH? I'LL SHOW YOU!
BUT AS SUN GRL S ABOUT TO TEAR INTO THE BANDIT, SHE SEES H S STONE-DOUBLE!
MEET YOUR STONE HEADED TWIN BROTHER!
WHUFF!
HE TORCH, SWIFTLY FLAMES DOWN TOWARD CORELLI!
THE GRANITE GUN'LL STOP HIM!
TORCH DOUSES HIS FLAME, GRABS THE GRANITE GUN, AND THEN...
NOT IF I STOP YOU FIRST!
YEOW!
TORCH! BEHIND YOU!
HO! THE THUNDERING HERD!
GET HIM!
NEED I SAY "HOLD THAT POSE?"
6

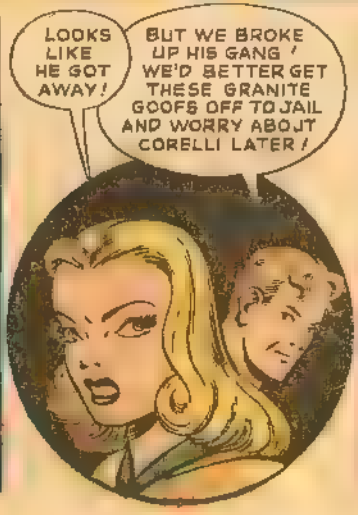

WELL QUITE A COLLECTION OF STATUES YOU'VE GOT HERE !
I'M CALLING THIS "CRIME AT EBB!" NOW TO GET CORELLI ! THE LAST I SAW OF HIM, HE WAS CRAWLING AWAY LIKE THE HEEL HE IS !



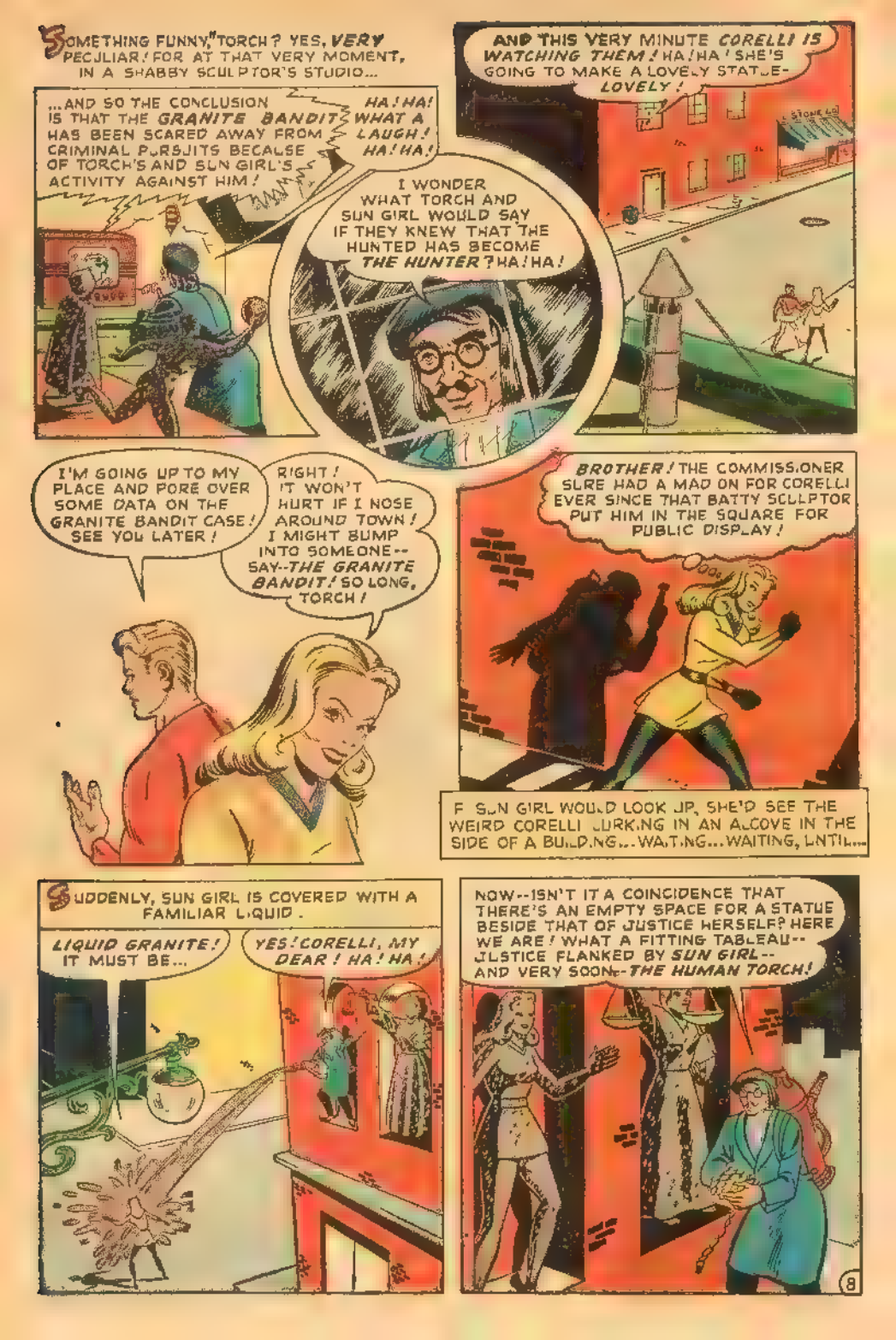


TORCH MISTAKES THE STATUE FOR ITS LIVING MODEL, AND PLANTS HIMSELF DIRECTLY IN ITS WAY TO TRY TO STOP IT !




LOOKS LIKE HE GOT AWAY !
BUT WE BROKE UP HIS GANG ! WE'D BETTER GET THESE GRANITE GOOFS OFF TO JAIL AND WORRY ABOUT CORELLI LATER !

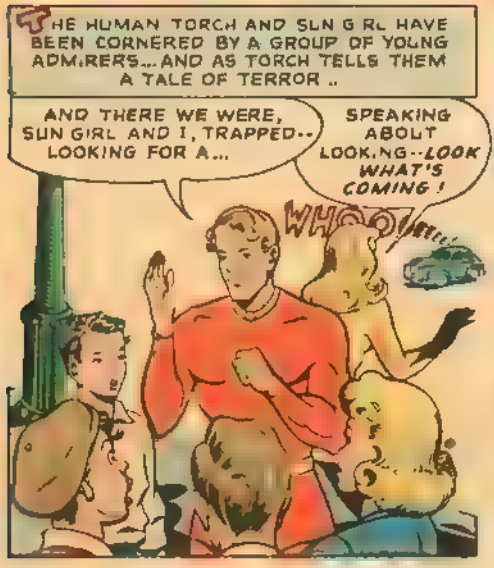
LATER AT THE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE...
HONEST TORCH, I'LL THROW A VICTORY PARTY WHEN WE CATCH THE GRANITE BANDIT- IF WE EVER DO !
HE HASN'T PULLED ANYTHING ALL WEEK ! THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THE WAY HE KEEPS UNDER COVER !
POLICE COMMISSIONER
PRIVATE

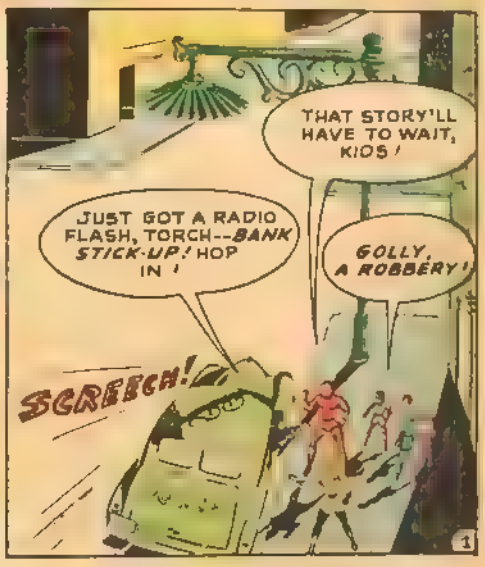

SOMETHING FUNNY,"TORCH? YES, VERY PECULIAR! FOR AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN A SHABBY SCULPTOR'S STUDIO...
...AND SO THE CONCLUSION IS THAT THE GRANITE BANDIT HAS BEEN SCARED AWAY FROM CRIMINAL PURSUITS BECAUSE OF TORCH'S AND SUN GIRL'S ACTIVITY AGAINST HIM!
HA! HA! WHAT A LAUGH! HA! HA!
I WONDER WHAT TORCH AND SUN GIRL WOULD SAY IF THEY KNEW THAT THE HUNTED HAS BECOME THE HUNTER? HA! HA!
AND THIS VERY MINUTE CORELLI IS WATCHING THEM! HA! HA! SHE'S GOING TO MAKE A LOVELY STATUE- LOVELY!
STONE CO
I'M GOING UP TO MY PLACE AND PORE OVER SOME DATA ON THE GRANITE BANDIT CASE! SEE YOU LATER!
RIGHT! IT WON'T HURT IF I NOSE AROUND TOWN! I MIGHT BUMP INTO SOMEONE-- SAY--THE GRANITE BANDIT! SO LONG, TORCH!
BROTHER! THE COMMISSIONER SURE HAD A MAD ON FOR CORELLI EVER SINCE THAT BATTY SCULPTOR PUT HIM IN THE SQUARE FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY!
IF SUN GIRL WOULD LOOK UP, SHE'D SEE THE WEIRD CORELLI LURKING IN AN ALCOVE IN THE SIDE OF A BUILDING...WAITING...WAITING, UNTIL...
SUDDENLY, SUN GIRL IS COVERED WITH A FAMILIAR LIQUID.
LIQUID GRANITE! IT MUST BE...
YES! CORELLI, MY DEAR! HA! HA!
NOW--ISN'T IT A COINCIDENCE THAT THERE'S AN EMPTY SPACE FOR A STATUE BESIDE THAT OF JUSTICE HERSELF? HERE WE ARE! WHAT A FITTING TABLEAU-- JUSTICE FLANKED BY SUN GIRL-- AND VERY SOON--THE HUMAN TORCH!
8

LATER THAT EVENING ..
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO SUN GIRL! THOUGHT SHE'D CALL BY NOW! HMMM... WHAT'S THAT ?
WHAT TORCH HEARD WAS...
HA! HA! I ONLY HOPE I CATCH TORCH IN A HERO C POSE !
TOO BAD WE CAUGHT YOU SITTING DOWN, TORCH! BUT ONE MUSTN'T BE TOO PARTICULAR AT A TIME LIKE THIS, EH? HA! HA!
CRASHING THROUGH THE WINDOW, CORELLI TURNS HIS GRANITE-LIQUID FULL-FORCE ON THE FIGURE OF THE TORCH!
NO, CORELLI! ONE MUSTN'T-- ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE IS UNDER THE BED!
WHA--? THAT WAS A DUMMY IN THE CHAIR ?
TORCH QUICKLY GRABS THE GRANITE GUN AND...
NO--A DUMMY ON THE FLOOR-- IN GRANITE!
YAHHHH! PLEASE, TORCH-- NOT IN MY FACE!
SSSSSSS!
NO--NOT YOUR FACE, CORELLI! I WANT YOU TO TALK! IT SEEMS SUN GIRL HAS FORGOTTEN TO CALL ME! I WONDER IF YOU COULD HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HER PROLONGED ABSENCE!
ME? CERTAINLY NOT!
TORCH ALLOWS HIS HAND TO FLAME, AND...
DID YOU EVER HEAR OF THE HOT-FOOT GAG? WELL, I'M GOING TO PLAY IT... UNLESS YOU TALK-- BUT FAST!
YIPES, TORCH! NO HOT-FOOTS, PLEASE! I'LL TELL YOU! SHE'S IN A NICHE IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING!
7

AN HOUR LATER...
SWELL JOB IN ROUNDING UP CORELLI, TORCH! I'LL THROW THAT VICTORY PARTY TOMORROW NIGHT!
SURE, COMMISSIONER! BUT I HOPE SUN GIRL'S IN CONDITION TO ATTEND! SHE'S BEEN UP THERE A LONG TIME, POOR GIRL!
...AND AFTER THE GRANITE IS REMOVED...
FEEL ALL RIGHT, BEAUTIFUL?
YES-- BUT I'M HUNGRY--AND I CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT VICTORY PARTY!
THE NEXT MORNING...
HEY, TORCH!
GANGWAY!
ARE YOU GOIN' TO FINISH THAT STORY YOU WERE TELLIN' US BEFORE TH' BANK ROBBERY?
HO! OF COURSE I WILL! BUT FIRST, I WANT YOU ALL TO SEE THE END OF THIS ONE! COME ON!
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, TORCH, HUH?
RUN OVER THERE! YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN!
GEE! C'MON, LET'S GO!
HA! HA! HA-HA! HA-HA! HA! HA!
GOLLY! THE GRANITE BANDIT!
...AND THE COMMISSIONER SAYS YOU'RE GOING TO STAND HERE ALL DAY FOR GETTING FUNNY WITH US THE WAY YOU DID!
AW-R-- SHUDDUP!
NOW THERE'S THE KIND OF A STATUE I LIKE!
YES! TOO BAD CORELLI DIDN'T TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT HER BEFORE HE DECIDED TO CHISEL INTO THE WRONG END OF LIFE!
COURT OF JUSTICE
THE END
10

STUDIO
STOP WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING! DON'T DARE PUT THIS MAGAZINE AS DE UNTIL YOU READ THIS STORY! THERE IS A MYSTERY H DDEN HERE, A TALE OF CR ME AND SUSPENSE. A VILLAIN S PROWL NG IN AND OUT OF TS PAGES, LURK NG, WA T NG TO STRIKE AND WHEN HE STR KES HIS VICTIMS TURN TO STONE! SO-- BE CAREFUL! HE IS RUTHLESS AND DANGEROUS.. A MENACE! A MENACE FOR THE HUMAN TORCH AND SUN GIRL TO COMBAT... IF POSSIBLE!


THE HUMAN TORCH AND SUN G RL HAVE BEEN CORNERED BY A GROUP OF YOUNG ADMIRERS... AND AS TORCH TELLS THEM A TALE OF TERROR ..
AND THERE WE WERE, SUN GIRL AND I, TRAPPED-- LOOKING FOR A...
SPEAKING ABOUT LOOKING--LOOK WHAT'S COMING!
WHOOSH!


THAT STORY'LL HAVE TO WAIT, KIDS!
JUST GOT A RADIO FLASH, TORCH--BANK STICK-UP! HOP IN!
GOLLY, A ROBBERY!
SCREECH!
1

MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS is published bi-monthly by MARVEL COMICS, INC. Office of Publication: 169 Pratt Street, Meriden, Conn. Editorial Offices: 350 Fifth Avenue, New York, 1, N.Y. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Meriden, Conn., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Copyright 1948 by MARVEL COMICS, INC., 350 Fifth Avenue, New York, 1, N.Y. Vol. 1, No. 89, DECEMBER 1948 Issue. Price $. 0 per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A.

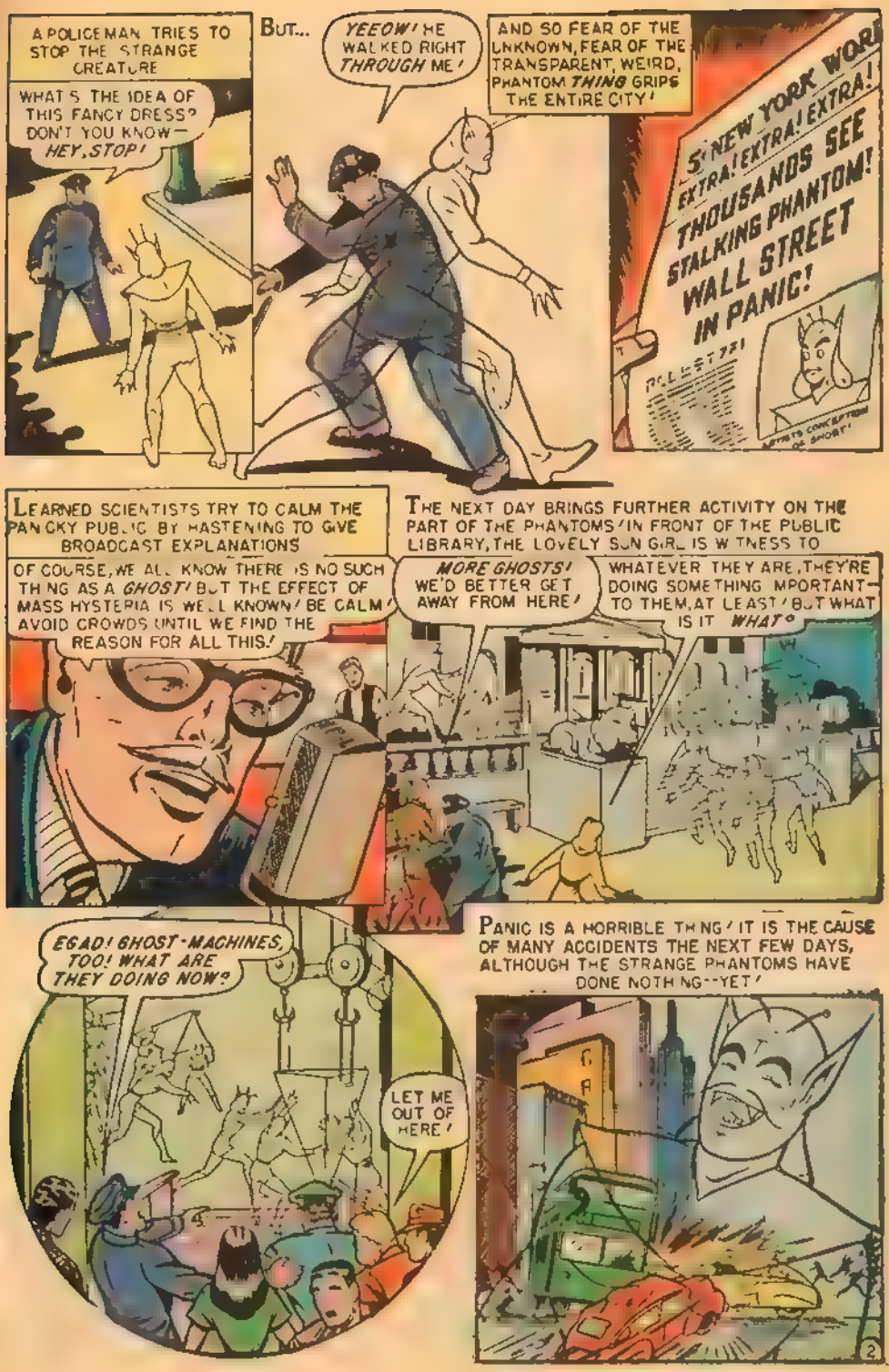
SUN GIRL

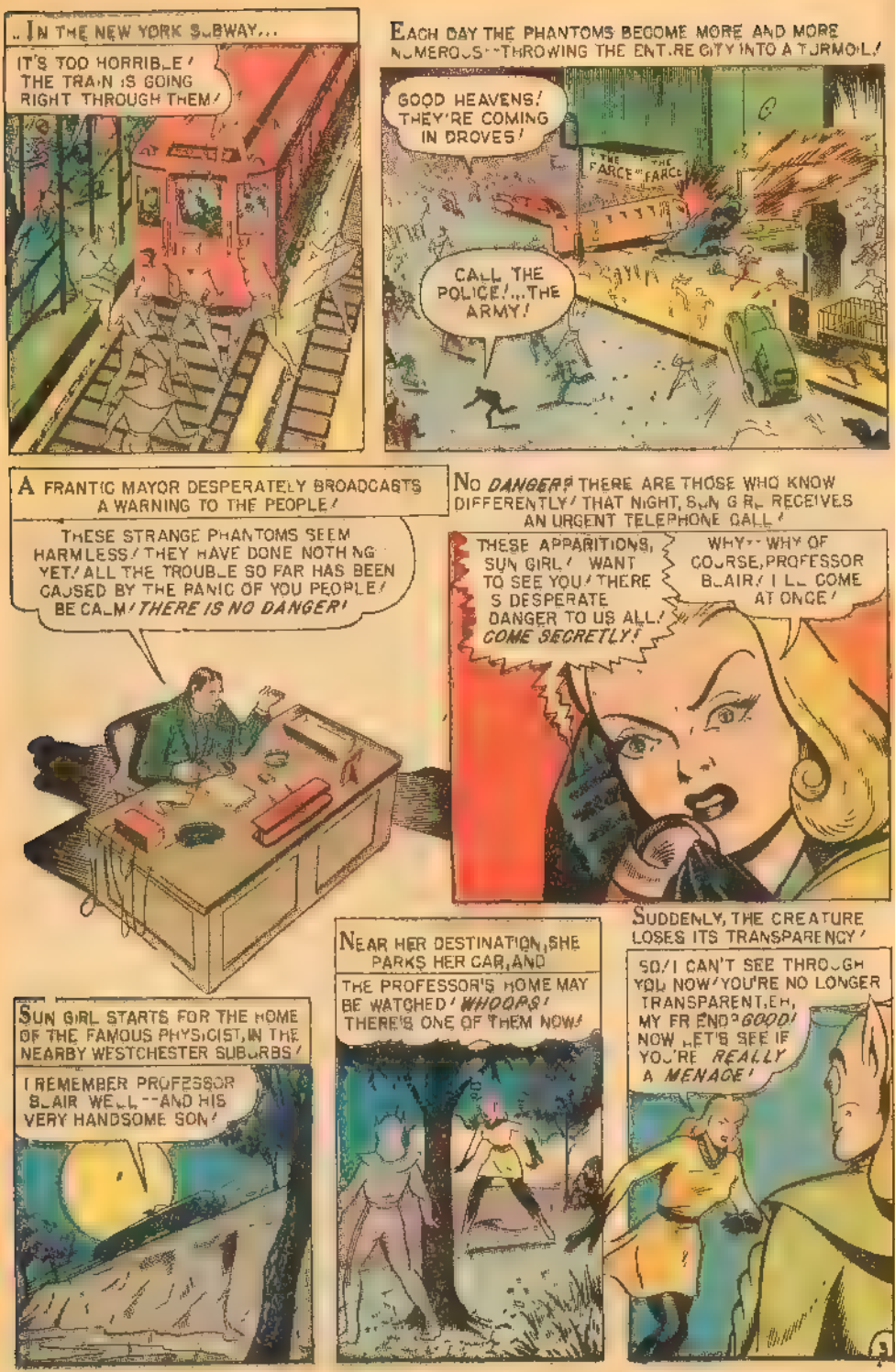
NEVER IN THE HISTORY OF MAN-KIND WAS THERE A PERIL SUCH AS *THIS!* FOR HERE WAS A MENACE, NOT OF MAN-MADE DANGER, NOT OF WAR-FARE AS WE KNOW IT, BUT DOOM IN THE FIGURES OF STRANGE, TRANSPARENT *THINGS!* THIS WAS THE THREAT THAT FACED SUN GIRL WHEN SHE BATTLED...

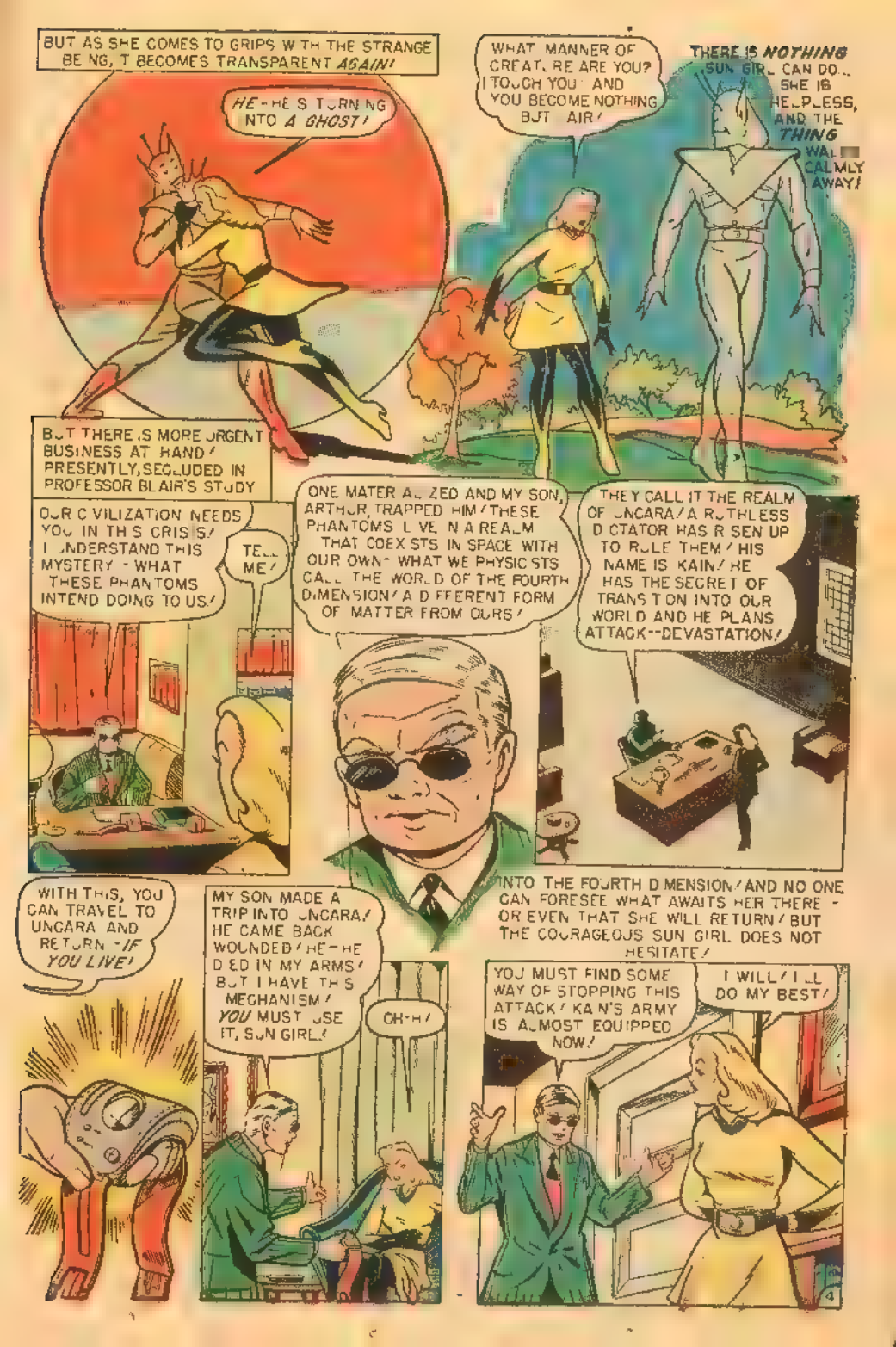
THE *TERRIFYING GHOSTS* FROM THE UNKNOWN!

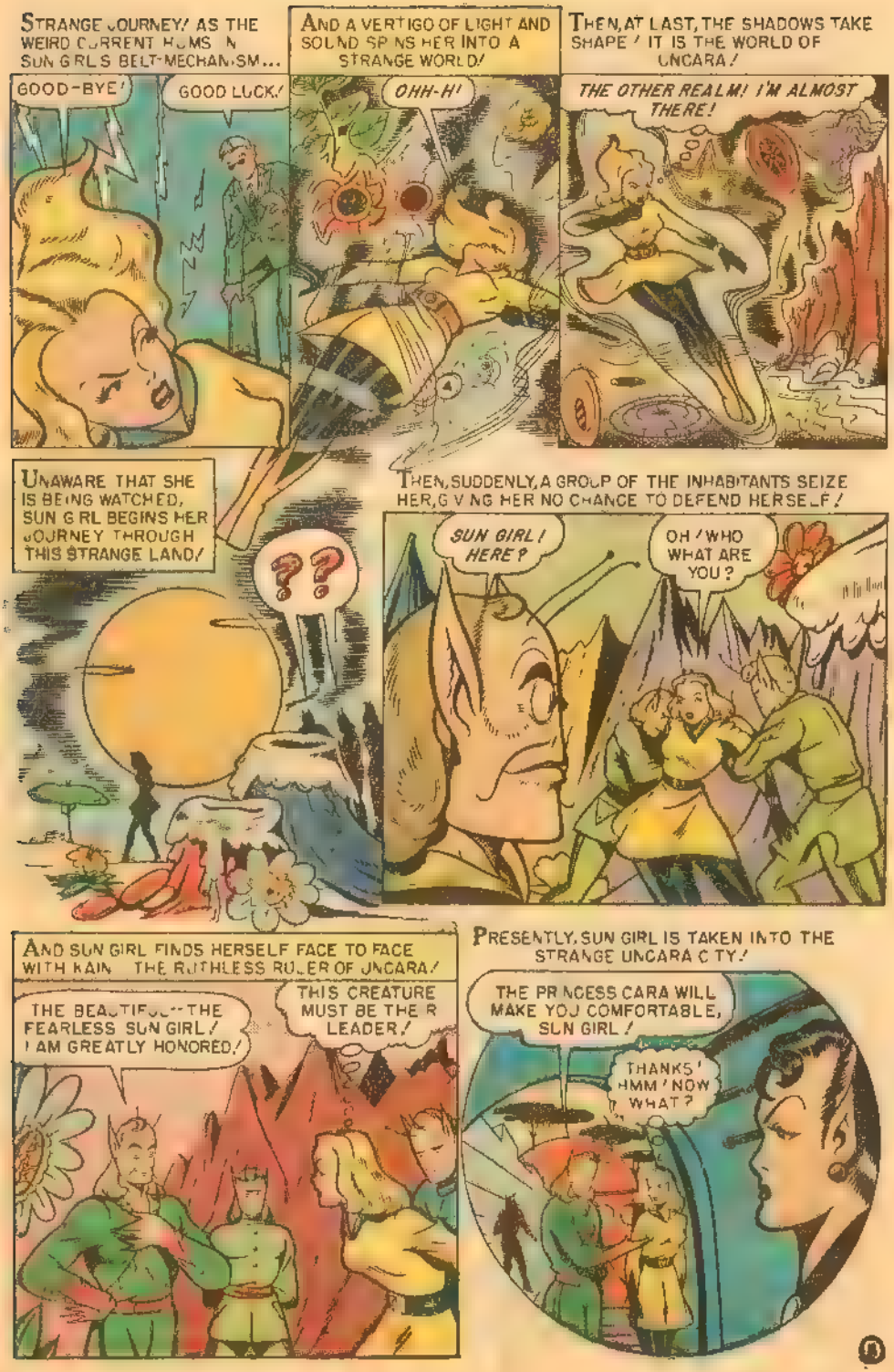
HIGH NOON IN NEW YORK CITY, AND THE BUSY NATIVES ARE ASTOUNDED BY A STRANGE PHENOMENON WHICH IS TO LEAD TO WEIRD, UNBELIEVABLE CONSEQUENCES IN THE INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS FINANCIAL SECTION... WALL STREET!

BROAD DAYLIGHT, YET THOUSANDS SEE THE FANTASTIC, SILENT, STALKING PHANTOM!


A POLICEMAN TRIES TO STOP THE STRANGE CREATURE
WHAT'S THE IDEA OF THIS FANCY DRESS? DON'T YOU KNOW— HEY, STOP!
BUT...
YEEOW! HE WALKED RIGHT THROUGH ME!
AND SO FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN, FEAR OF THE TRANSPARENT, WEIRD, PHANTOM THING GRIPS THE ENTIRE CITY!
EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!
THOUSANDS SEE STALKING PHANTOM!
WALL STREET IN PANIC!
LEARNED SCIENTISTS TRY TO CALM THE PANICKY PUBLIC BY HASTENING TO GIVE BROADCAST EXPLANATIONS
OF COURSE, WE ALL KNOW THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A GHOST! BUT THE EFFECT OF MASS HYSTERIA IS WELL KNOWN! BE CALM! AVOID CROWDS UNTIL WE FIND THE REASON FOR ALL THIS!
THE NEXT DAY BRINGS FURTHER ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE PHANTOMS! IN FRONT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, THE LOVELY SUN GIRL IS WITNESS TO
MORE GHOSTS! WE'D BETTER GET AWAY FROM HERE!
WHATEVER THEY ARE, THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING IMPORTANT— TO THEM, AT LEAST! BUT WHAT IS IT WHAT?
EGAD! GHOST-MACHINES, TOO! WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
PANIC IS A HORRIBLE THING! IT IS THE CAUSE OF MANY ACCIDENTS THE NEXT FEW DAYS, ALTHOUGH THE STRANGE PHANTOMS HAVE DONE NOTHING—YET!
2


..IN THE NEW YORK SUBWAY...
IT'S TOO HORRIBLE! THE TRAIN IS GOING RIGHT THROUGH THEM!
EACH DAY THE PHANTOMS BECOME MORE AND MORE NUMEROUS--THROWING THE ENTIRE CITY INTO A TURMOIL!
GOOD HEAVENS! THEY'RE COMING IN DROVES!
CALL THE POLICE!...THE ARMY!
A FRANTIC MAYOR DESPERATELY BROADCASTS A WARNING TO THE PEOPLE!
THESE STRANGE PHANTOMS SEEM HARMLESS! THEY HAVE DONE NOTHING YET! ALL THE TROUBLE SO FAR HAS BEEN CAUSED BY THE PANIC OF YOU PEOPLE! BE CALM! THERE IS NO DANGER!
NO DANGER? THERE ARE THOSE WHO KNOW DIFFERENTLY! THAT NIGHT, SUN GIRL RECEIVES AN URGENT TELEPHONE CALL!
THESE APPARITIONS, SUN GIRL! WANT TO SEE YOU! THERE'S DESPERATE DANGER TO US ALL! COME SECRETLY!
WHY--WHY OF COURSE, PROFESSOR BLAIR! I'LL COME AT ONCE!
SUN GIRL STARTS FOR THE HOME OF THE FAMOUS PHYSICIST, IN THE NEARBY WESTCHESTER SUBURBS!
I REMEMBER PROFESSOR BLAIR WELL--AND HIS VERY HANDSOME SON!
NEAR HER DESTINATION, SHE PARKS HER CAR, AND
THE PROFESSOR'S HOME MAY BE WATCHED! WHOOPS! THERE'S ONE OF THEM NOW!
SUDDENLY, THE CREATURE LOSES ITS TRANSPARENCY!
SO! I CAN'T SEE THROUGH YOU NOW! YOU'RE NO LONGER TRANSPARENT, EH, MY FRIEND? GOOD! NOW LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE REALLY A MENACE!


BUT AS SHE COMES TO GRIPS WITH THE STRANGE BEING, IT BECOMES TRANSPARENT AGAIN!
HE-HE'S TURNING INTO A GHOST!
WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE ARE YOU? I TOUCH YOU AND YOU BECOME NOTHING BUT AIR!
THERE IS NOTHING SUN GIRL CAN DO.. SHE IS HELPLESS, AND THE THING WALKS CALMLY AWAY!
BUT THERE IS MORE URGENT BUSINESS AT HAND! PRESENTLY, SECLUDED IN PROFESSOR BLAIR'S STUDY
OUR CIVILIZATION NEEDS YOU IN THIS CRISIS! I UNDERSTAND THIS MYSTERY - WHAT THESE PHANTOMS INTEND DOING TO US!
TELL ME!
ONE MATERIALIZED AND MY SON, ARTHUR, TRAPPED HIM! THESE PHANTOMS LIVE IN A REALM THAT COEXISTS IN SPACE WITH OUR OWN- WHAT WE PHYSICISTS CALL THE WORLD OF THE FOURTH DIMENSION! A DIFFERENT FORM OF MATTER FROM OURS!
THEY CALL IT THE REALM OF UNGARA! A RUTHLESS DICTATOR HAS RISEN UP TO RULE THEM! HIS NAME IS KAIN! HE HAS THE SECRET OF TRANSITION INTO OUR WORLD AND HE PLANS ATTACK--DEVASTATION!
INTO THE FOURTH DIMENSION! AND NO ONE CAN FORESEE WHAT AWAITS HER THERE - OR EVEN THAT SHE WILL RETURN! BUT THE COURAGEOUS SUN GIRL DOES NOT HESITATE!
WITH THIS, YOU CAN TRAVEL TO UNGARA AND RETURN - IF YOU LIVE!
MY SON MADE A TRIP INTO UNGARA! HE CAME BACK WOUNDED! HE-HE DIED IN MY ARMS! BUT I HAVE THIS MECHANISM! YOU MUST USE IT, SUN GIRL!
OH-H!
YOU MUST FIND SOME WAY OF STOPPING THIS ATTACK! KAIN'S ARMY IS ALMOST EQUIPPED NOW!
I WILL! I'LL DO MY BEST!
4


STRANGE JOURNEY! AS THE WEIRD CURRENT HUMS IN SUN GIRL'S BELT-MECHANISM...
AND A VERTIGO OF LIGHT AND SOUND SPINS HER INTO A STRANGE WORLD!
THEN, AT LAST, THE SHADOWS TAKE SHAPE! IT IS THE WORLD OF UNCARA!
GOOD-BYE!
GOOD LUCK!
ZZZZ
OHH-H!
THE OTHER REALM! I'M ALMOST THERE!
UNAWARE THAT SHE IS BEING WATCHED, SUN GIRL BEGINS HER JOURNEY THROUGH THIS STRANGE LAND!
??
THEN, SUDDENLY, A GROUP OF THE INHABITANTS SEIZE HER, GIVING HER NO CHANCE TO DEFEND HERSELF!
SUN GIRL! HERE?
OH! WHO WHAT ARE YOU?
AND SUN GIRL FINDS HERSELF FACE TO FACE WITH KAIN, THE RUTHLESS RULER OF UNCARA!
THE BEAUTIFUL--THE FEARLESS SUN GIRL! I AM GREATLY HONORED!
THIS CREATURE MUST BE THE R LEADER!
PRESENTLY, SUN GIRL IS TAKEN INTO THE STRANGE UNCARA CITY!
THE PRINCESS CARA WILL MAKE YOU COMFORTABLE, SUN GIRL!
THANKS! HMM! NOW WHAT?

IN THE GUARDED ROOM WITH CARA, SUN GIRL PLANS HOW SHE CAN ESCAPE!
DO NOT PLAN TO HARM YOU, MY DEAR! JUST DON'T MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS, AND YOU'LL BE TREATED WELL! GOOD-BYE!
WELL, KANN, I DON'T INTEND TO SIT IDLY BY!
A WOMAN'S BEST AT UNDERSTANDING ANOTHER WOMAN! SUN GIRL SEES THAT CARA IS JEALOUS OF HER!
TELL ME ABOUT YOUR WORLD HERE, CARA!
NEEDN'T BOTHER! KAIN WILL EXPLAIN! I'M TIRED! PLEASE EXCUSE ME!
ALONE, AT LAST, SUN GIRL INVESTIGATES ON HER OWN...
IF I CAN GET PAST THE GUARDS--GET TO THAT LABORATORY WHERE THE TRANSITION MECHANISMS ARE MADE...
AND LATER WHEN SUN GIRL FINALLY FALLS INTO A TROUBLED SLEEP, A HOODED FIGURE SILENTLY ENTERS THE ROOM!
SHE MUST DIE!
CARA! WHY?
YOU MUST DIE! YOU MUST DIE!
I WANT TO KILL YOU—YOU ARE TRYING TO STEAL KAIN FROM ME!
DON'T BE SILLY, CARA!
I NEVER WANTED HIM TO ATTACK YOUR WORLD! I TRIED TO STOP HIM!
THEN HELP ME STOP HIM AND I'LL LEAVE YOUR WORLD! AND KAIN WILL BE ALL YOURS!
ALRIGHT! I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW.. BUT IF KAIN SHOULD FIND OUT, HE'D KILL ME!
YOU WON'T BE SORRY, CARA! YOUR WORLD AND MINE SHOULD EXIST SIDE BY SIDE--IN PEACE!

LATER, WHEN THE SUN GIRL HAS LEARNED THE INFORMATION SHE NEEDS, SHE ATTEMPTS A DRASTIC PLAN!

I HOPE THE GUARDS OUTSIDE WILL THINK I'M CARA! I HAVE TO GET PAST THEM!

WEARING CARA'S ROBE MAY HELP...

AND IN A FEW MINUTES...

AH! THE ARSENAL, AND LABORATORIES WHERE THE THE TRANSITION MECHANISMS ARE MADE! WELL, I'LL FIX THAT!

THE POWERFUL WRIST LIGHT OF SUN GIRL IS SWITCHED ON, AND...

I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE EVERYTHING CRASHES ON ME!

BUT THE MAIN COLUMNS OF KAIN'S ARMY HAVE ALREADY STARTED INTO THE EARTH-WORLD! QUICKLY, SUN GIRL FOLLOWS THEM IN THE TRANSITION!

NO SIGNS OF THEM YET!

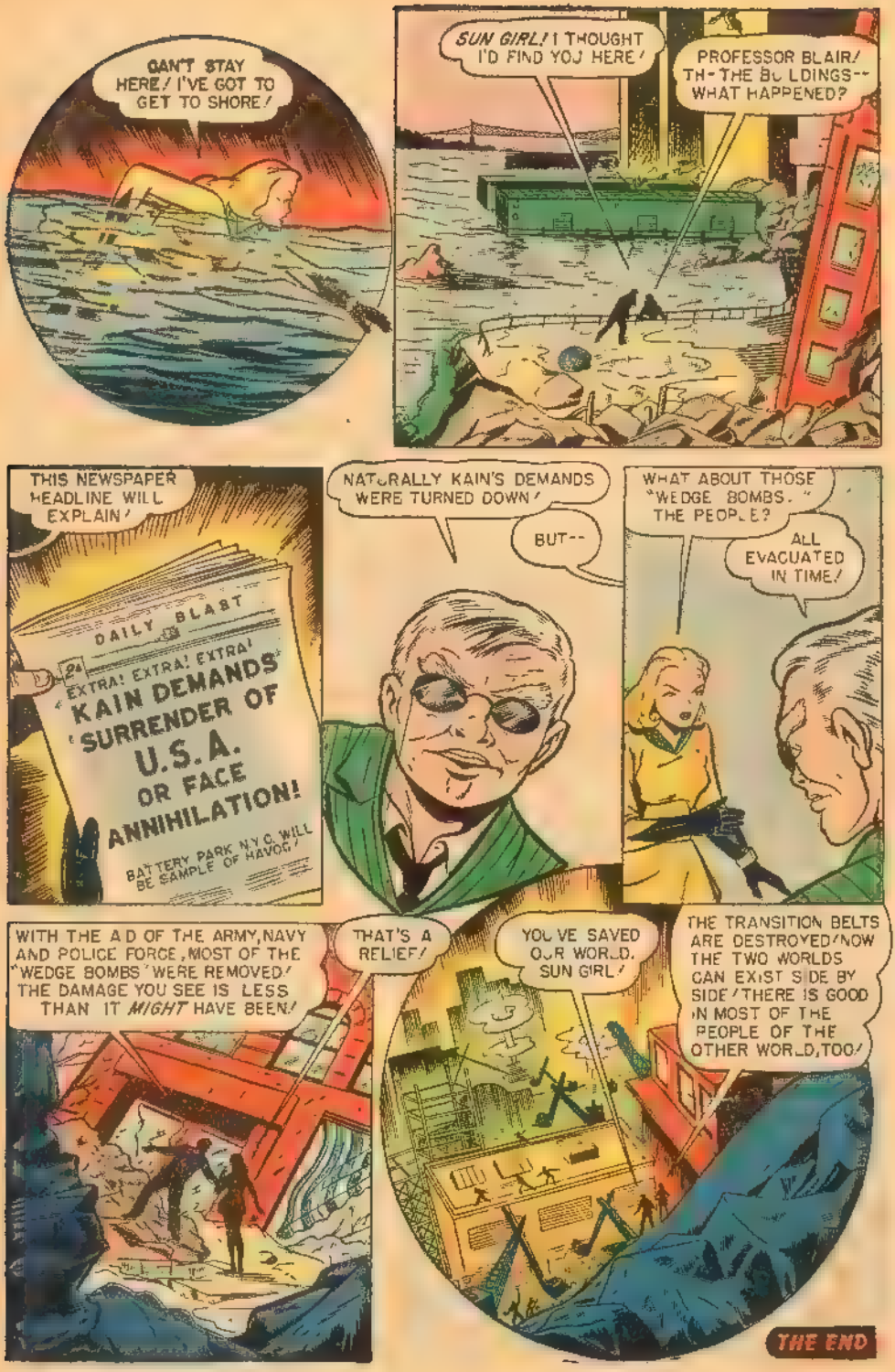
AND THEN...

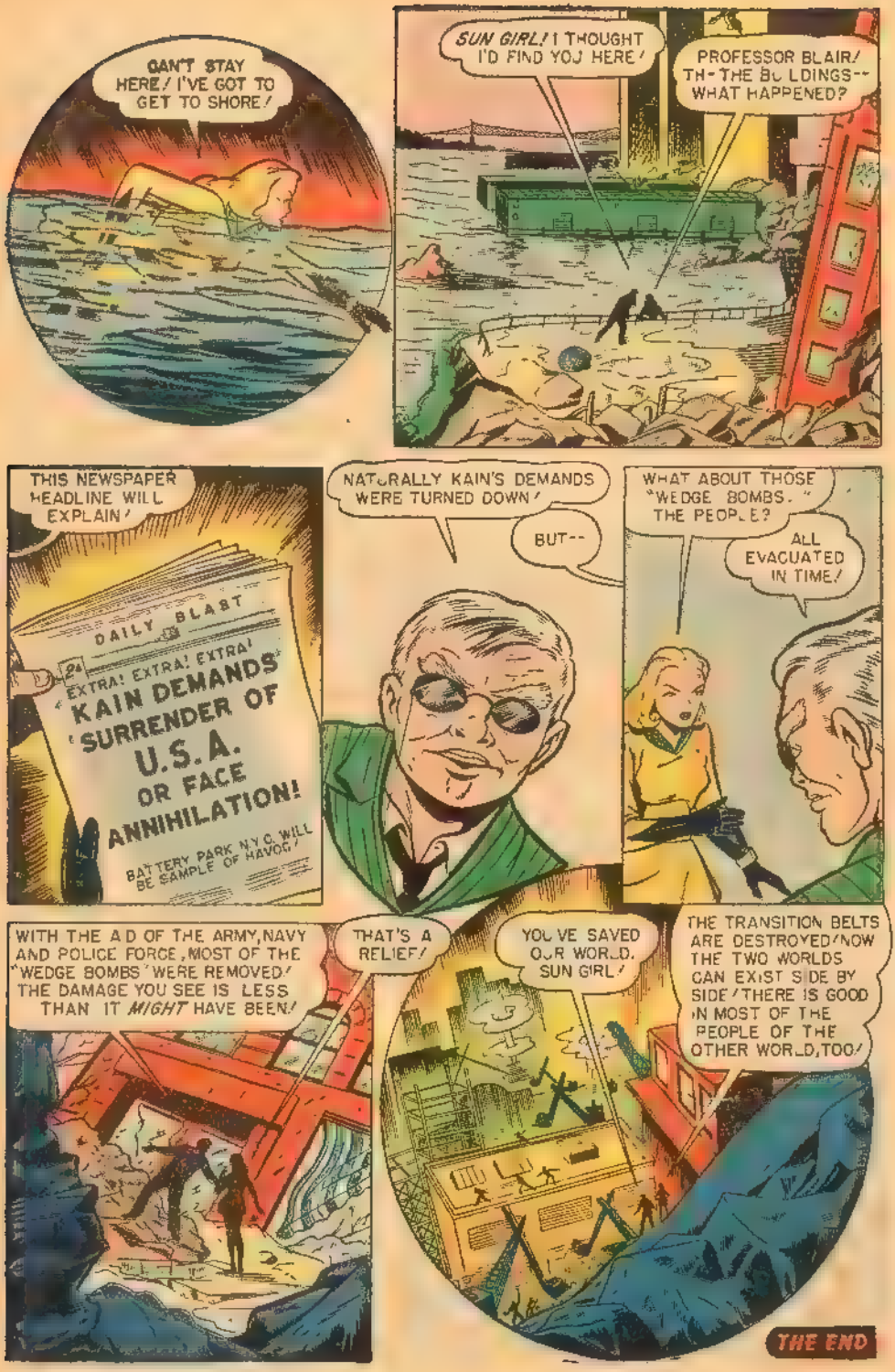
THEY'VE STARTED THEIR DEVASTATION! THOSE WEDGES THEY WERE PUTTING UNDER THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR BUILDINGS ARE MATERIALIZING NOW INTO THE SOLIDITY OF OUR WORLD...

AND NO TWO MATERIAL BODIES CAN OCCUPY THE SAME SPACE AT THE SAME TIME!

.. LIKE HORRIBLE, WEIRD TIME-BOMBS!

HERE IN THE HALF-WORLD WITHIN NEW YORK CITY, SUN GIRL CANNOT SEE THE TERRIBLE REALITY...

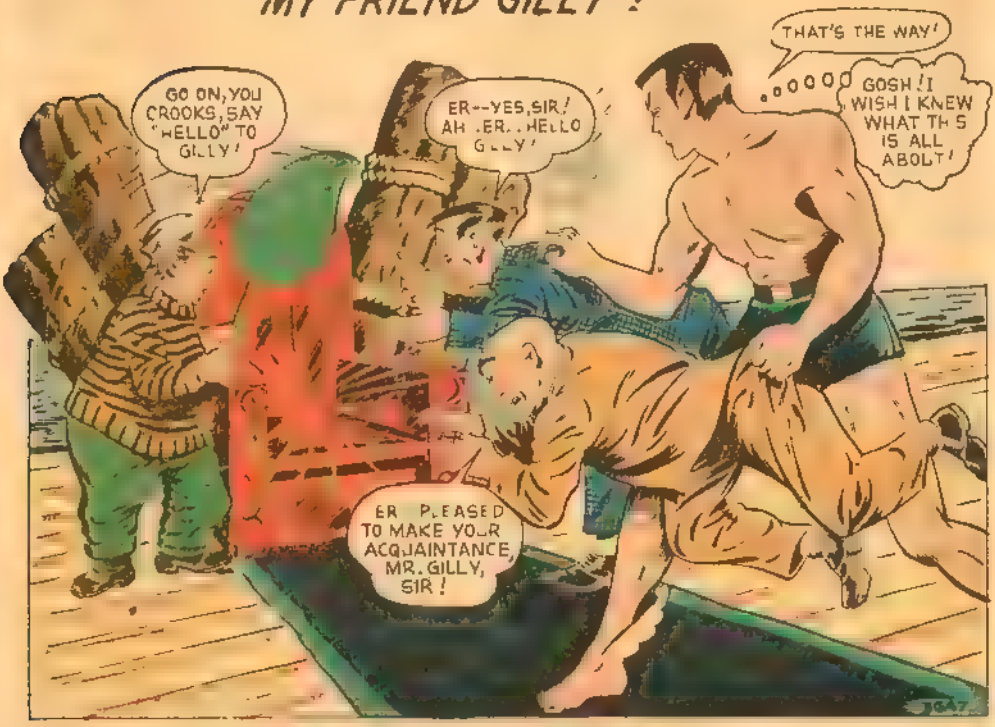

CAN'T STAY HERE! I'VE GOT TO GET TO SHORE!
SUN GIRL! I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE!
PROFESSOR BLAIR! TH- THE BUILDINGS-- WHAT HAPPENED?
THIS NEWSPAPER HEADLINE WILL EXPLAIN!
DAILY BLAST
EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!
KAIN DEMANDS SURRENDER OF U.S.A. OR FACE ANNIHILATION!
BATTERY PARK N.Y.C. WILL BE SAMPLE OF HAVOC!
NATURALLY KAIN'S DEMANDS WERE TURNED DOWN!
BUT--
WHAT ABOUT THOSE "WEDGE BOMBS." THE PEOPLE?
ALL EVACUATED IN TIME!
WITH THE AID OF THE ARMY, NAVY AND POLICE FORCE, MOST OF THE "WEDGE BOMBS" WERE REMOVED! THE DAMAGE YOU SEE IS LESS THAN IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN!
THAT'S A RELIEF!
YOU'VE SAVED OUR WORLD, SUN GIRL!
THE TRANSITION BELTS ARE DESTROYED! NOW THE TWO WORLDS CAN EXIST SIDE BY SIDE! THERE IS GOOD IN MOST OF THE PEOPLE OF THE OTHER WORLD, TOO!
THE END


CAN'T STAY HERE! I'VE GOT TO GET TO SHORE!
SUN GIRL! I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE!
PROFESSOR BLAIR! TH- THE BUILDINGS-- WHAT HAPPENED?
THIS NEWSPAPER HEADLINE WILL EXPLAIN!
DAILY BLAST
EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!
KAIN DEMANDS SURRENDER OF U.S.A. OR FACE ANNIHILATION!
BATTERY PARK N.Y.C. WILL BE SAMPLE OF HAVOC!
NATURALLY KAIN'S DEMANDS WERE TURNED DOWN!
BUT--
WHAT ABOUT THOSE "WEDGE BOMBS." THE PEOPLE?
ALL EVACUATED IN TIME!
WITH THE AID OF THE ARMY, NAVY AND POLICE FORCE, MOST OF THE "WEDGE BOMBS" WERE REMOVED! THE DAMAGE YOU SEE IS LESS THAN IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN!
THAT'S A RELIEF!
YOU'VE SAVED OUR WORLD, SUN GIRL!
THE TRANSITION BELTS ARE DESTROYED! NOW THE TWO WORLDS CAN EXIST SIDE BY SIDE! THERE IS GOOD IN MOST OF THE PEOPLE OF THE OTHER WORLD, TOO!
THE END

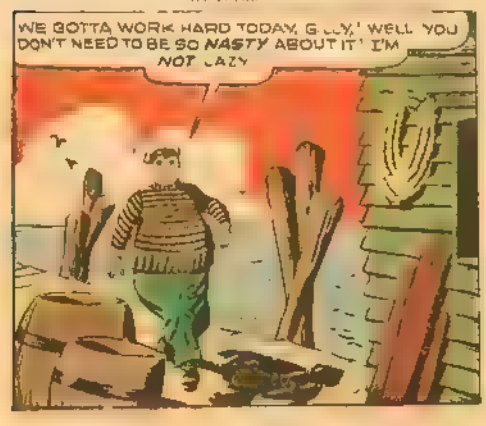
SUB-MARINER

YOU'RE GOING TO LIKE *"GILLY"!* WHY? WELL, IT'S KIND OF HARD TO SAY. THERE ARE QUITE A FEW REASONS! YOU'VE NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE GILLY BEFORE. *THAT* IS GUARANTEED! AND HE HAS A PURPOSE IN LIFE, TOO... BUT WHAT IT IS, ONLY HENRY ENWHISTLE KNOWS, BECAUSE, YOU SEE, ONLY *HENRY CAN SEE GILLY!* AND *SUB-MARINER* REALLY RUNS INTO SOMETHING WHEN HE MEETS HENRY AND...

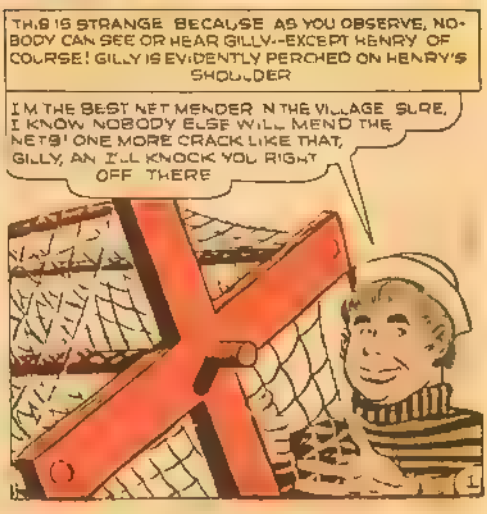
"MY FRIEND GILLY"!

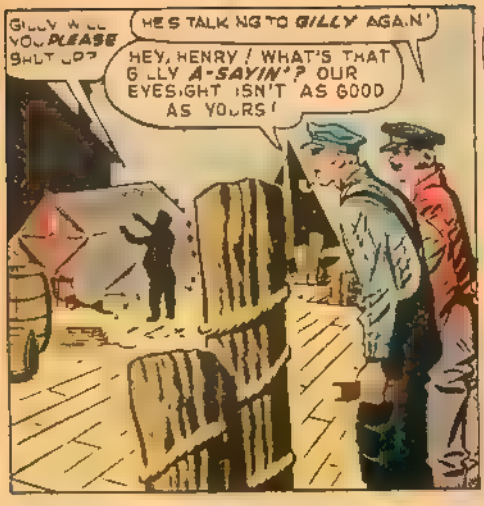

GO ON, YOU CROOKS, SAY "HELLO" TO GILLY!
ER--YES, SIR! AH..ER..HELLO GILLY!
ER PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, MR. GILLY, SIR!
THAT'S THE WAY!
.....
GOSH! I WISH I KNEW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

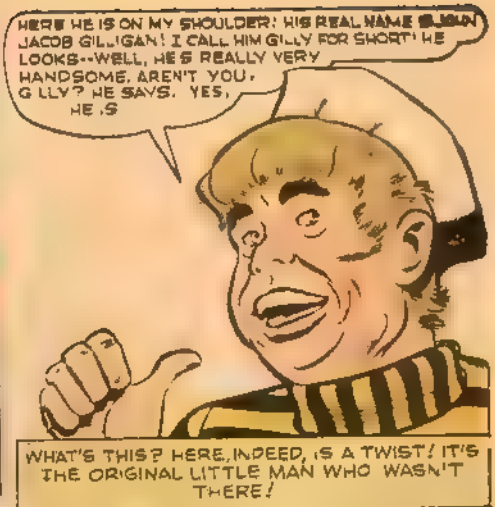
PEOPLE CALL HENRY ENWHISTLE A LITTLE PECULIAR, BUT ONLY IN ONE SMALL WAY SO THAT NOBODY CARES VERY MUCH! THEY ARE JUST AMUSED! HE HAS A FRIEND, A CONSTANT COMPANION, ALWAYS RIGHT WITH HIM



THIS IS STRANGE BECAUSE AS YOU OBSERVE, NOBODY CAN SEE OR HEAR GILLY--EXCEPT HENRY OF COURSE! GILLY IS EVIDENTLY PERCHED ON HENRY'S SHOULDER

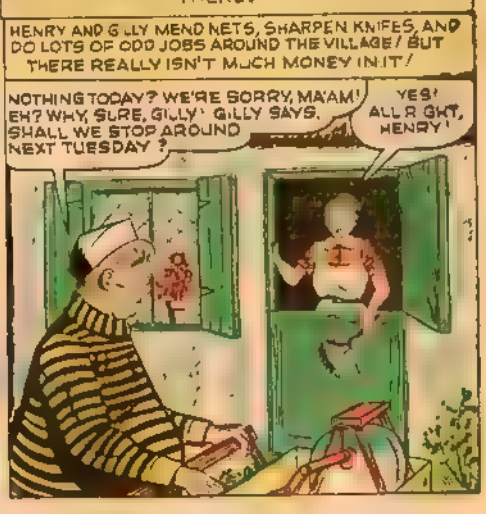

I'M THE BEST NET MENDER IN THE VILLAGE SURE, I KNOW NOBODY ELSE WILL MEND THE NETS! ONE MORE CRACK LIKE THAT, GILLY, AN I'LL KNOCK YOU RIGHT OFF THERE


GILLY WILL YOU PLEASE SHUT UP?
HE'S TALKING TO GILLY AGAIN!
HEY, HENRY! WHAT'S THAT GILLY A-SAYIN'? OUR EYESIGHT ISN'T AS GOOD AS YOURS!


HERE HE IS ON MY SHOULDER! HIS REAL NAME IS JOHN JACOB GILLIGAN! I CALL HIM GILLY FOR SHORT! HE LOOKS--WELL, HE'S REALLY VERY HANDSOME, AREN'T YOU, GILLY? HE SAYS. YES, HE'S

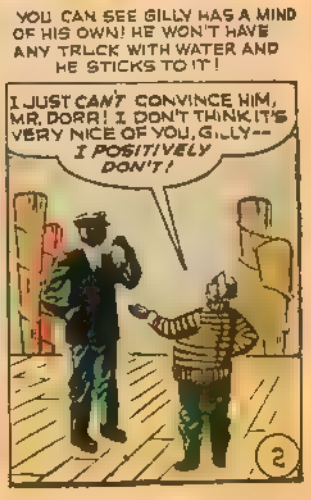
WHAT'S THIS? HERE, INDEED, IS A TWIST! IT'S THE ORIGINAL LITTLE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE!

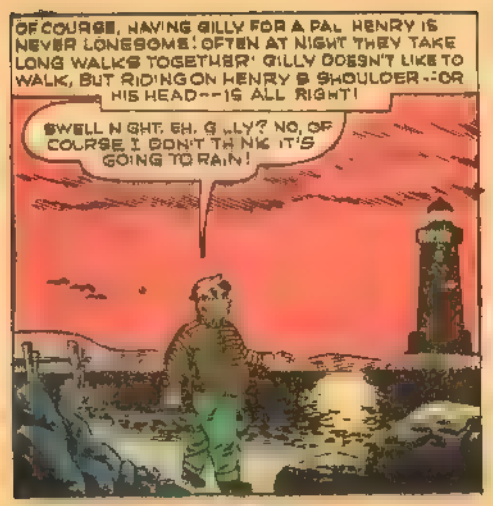
QUITE EVIDENTLY, GILLY LOOKS LIKE A FOOT-HIGH MR MAYBE CROSSED WITH A MONKEY! GILLY IS ALWAYS VERY POLITE WITH THE FISHERMEN OF THE VILLAGE!
GOOD EVENING, HENRY! WOULDN'T YOU--AND GILLY, TOO, OF COURSE--LIKE TO HAVE SUPPER WITH US?
OH THANK YOU, MA'AM SAY THANK YOU, GILLY! HE SAYS THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU INDEED, MRS. JOHNSON!


HENRY AND GILLY MEND NETS, SHARPEN KNIVES, AND DO LOTS OF ODD JOBS AROUND THE VILLAGE / BUT THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH MONEY IN IT /
NOTHING TODAY? WE'RE SORRY, MA'AM! EH? WHY, SURE, GILLY! GILLY SAYS. SHALL WE STOP AROUND NEXT TUESDAY?
YES! ALL RIGHT, HENRY!

THE FISHERMEN LIKE HENRY! THEY TELL HIM HE COULD MAKE LOTS MORE MONEY GOING OUT WITH THEM IN THE R BOATS!
THE'LL BE A BIG SEASON HENRY! WE COULD USE YOU!
YES, I KNOW THANKS VERY MUCH--BUT YOU SEE...

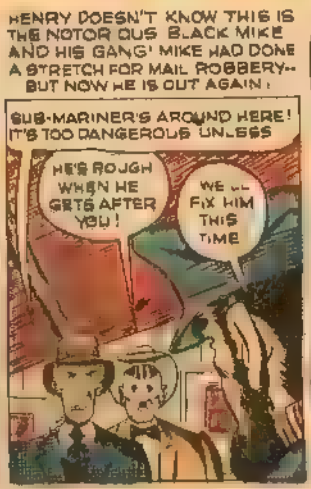
THE TROUBLE IS, GILLY DOESN'T LIKE THE WATER IN FACT, HE POSITIVELY HATES THE WATER! SO WHAT CAN HENRY DO? ONE CAN'T GET ANYWHERE ARGUING WITH GILLY!
NOW, GILLY, LISTEN: WE CAN MAKE MORE MONEY! ALL RIGHT THEN, I'LL LEAVE YOU HOME / YOU WON'T STAY HOME? WELL, THEN


YOU CAN SEE GILLY HAS A MIND OF HIS OWN! HE WON'T HAVE ANY TRUCK WITH WATER AND HE STICKS TO IT!
I JUST CAN'T CONVINCE HIM, MR. DORR! I DON'T THINK IT'S VERY NICE OF YOU, GILLY-- I POSITIVELY DON'T!
2


OF COURSE, HAVING GILLY FOR A PAL HENRY IS NEVER LONESOME: OFTEN AT NIGHT THEY TAKE LONG WALKS TOGETHER' GILLY DOESN'T LIKE TO WALK, BUT RIDING ON HENRY'S SHOULDER--OR HIS HEAD--IS ALL RIGHT!
SWELL NIGHT, EH, GILLY? NO, OF COURSE I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO RAIN!

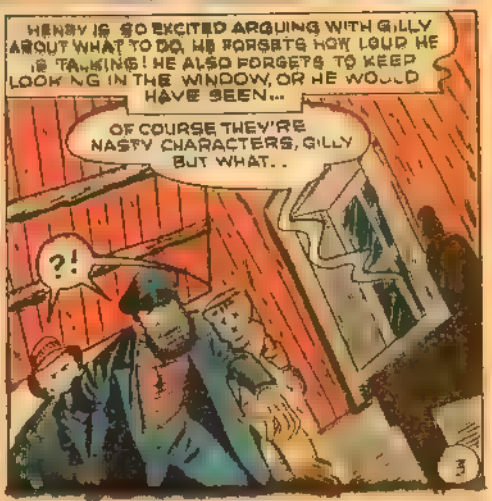
THEN SUDDENLY.
'NOBODY LIVES THERE! NOW THERE'S A LIGHT!
GOOD IDEA, GILLY! WE'LL SNEAK UP AND SEE

GILLY! LOOK!
EVERYTHING IS SET FOR TONIGHT!
THE MAILBOAT ARRIVES AT MIDNIGHT! BUT, MIKE, LISTEN

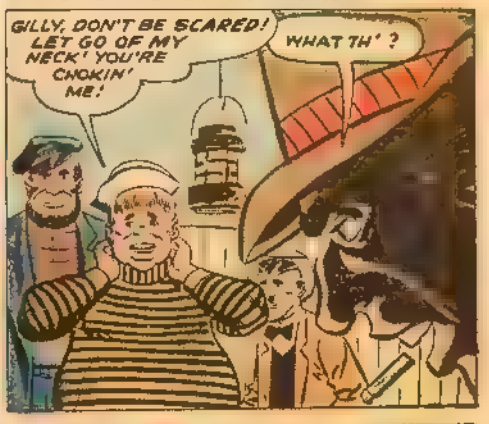

HENRY DOESN'T KNOW THIS IS THE NOTORIOUS BLACK MIKE AND HIS GANG' MIKE HAD DONE A STRETCH FOR MAIL ROBBERY--BUT NOW HE IS OUT AGAIN!
SUB-MARINER'S AROUND HERE! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS UNLESS
HE'S ROUGH WHEN HE GETS AFTER YOU!
WE'LL FIX HIM THIS TIME

THE MENDEL COMPANY PAY ROLL WILL BE ON THE MAILBOAT: WE'LL MEET IT A MILE OR TWO OUT OF THE HARBOR! BUT FIRST, IF WE CAN TRAP SUB-MARINER, WE'LL GET HIM OUT OF THE WAY!

WHY, THOSE AWFUL PEOPLE! YOU HEAR THAT, GILLY? SURE, I REALIZE WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT! BUT WHAT?


HENRY IS SO EXCITED ARGUING WITH GILLY ABOUT WHAT TO DO, HE FORGETS HOW LOUD HE IS TALKING! HE ALSO FORGETS TO KEEP LOOKING IN THE WINDOW, OR HE WOULD HAVE SEEN...
OF COURSE THEY'RE NASTY CHARACTERS, GILLY BUT WHAT..
?!

IT DOESN'T TAKE MIKE'S GANG LONG TO REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE CAPTURED AN UNUSUAL CHARACTER! BECAUSE GILLY *DOESN'T* RUN. EVIDENTLY HE IS STILL HANGING ON HENRY'S NECK!

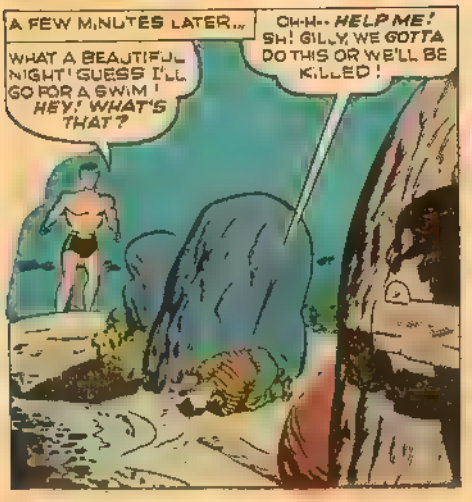


THEY GET USED TO GILLY PRESENTLY! THEY THINK HENRY PECULIAR, BUT HARMLESS!

WHAT DO YOU FELLOWS WANT WITH US? THAT'S WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW YOU- YOU- HOW *DARE* YOU?
'E'S A LITTLE BALMY EH, WOT?
WE CAN USE HIM TO LURE SUB-MARINER!

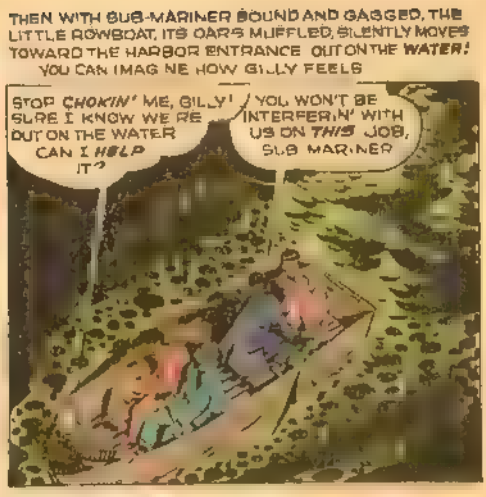
I SAW SUB-MARINER DOWN THE SHORE A WAYS! I DIDN'T *DARE* TACKLE HIM!
GOOD! THAT FIXES IT.
WHAT ARE THEY TALKIN' ABOUT GILLY? LOOK HERE, YOU...

WITH A GUN POKED IN HIS RIBS, HENRY IS FRIGHTENED AND MAD! GILLY IS JUST MAD!
YOU UNDERSTAN' WHAT YOU GOTTA DO? ONE FALSE MOVE AN' YOU'RE REALLY THROUGH! *GET* ME?
I GET YOU! *SHUT UP, GILLY!* I GOT TO DO IT! D'YA THINK I WANT A BULLET IN ME?

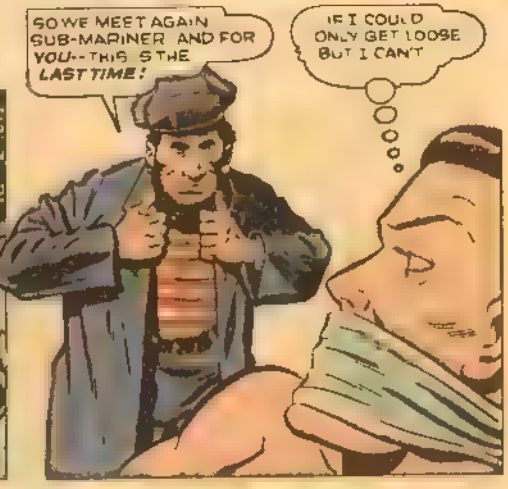

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT! GUESS I'LL GO FOR A SWIM! *HEY! WHAT'S THAT?*
OH-H-- *HELP ME!* SH! GILLY, WE *GOTTA* DO THIS OR WE'LL BE KILLED!

HENRY AGREES WITH GILLY--THIS *IS* A DIRTY TRICK! AT THE LAST MINUTE HE TRIES TO WARN SUB-MARINER, BUT TOO LATE!

ATTACKED SO UNEXPECTEDLY SUB-MARINER HAS NO CHANCE!
OOF! BLACK MIKE'S GANG! WHA?
GOOD WORK, HENRY!

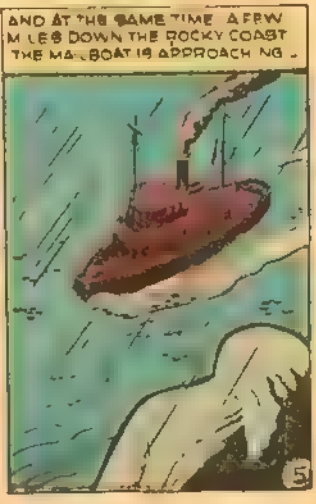

THEN WITH SUB-MARINER BOUND AND GAGGED, THE LITTLE ROWBOAT, ITS OARS MUFFLED, SILENTLY MOVES TOWARD THE HARBOR ENTRANCE OUT ON THE WATER!
YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW GILLY FEELS
STOP CHOKIN' ME, GILLY! SURE I KNOW WE'RE OUT ON THE WATER CAN I HELP IT?
YOU WON'T BE INTERFERIN' WITH US ON THIS JOB, SUB MARINER

A STORM IS COMING AS THEY BOARD THE INNOCENT-LOOKING TRAWLER! GILLY'S JUST ABOUT FRANTIC AT ALL THIS, BUT WITH A GUN POINTING AT HIM, HENRY CAN'T DO ANYTHING!
OKAY! SO YOU DON'T LIKE THIS!
EASY NOW, MEN! PUT HIM IN THE CABIN I'LL ATTEND TO HIM LATER!
C'MON, LOONY! HERE WE GO!

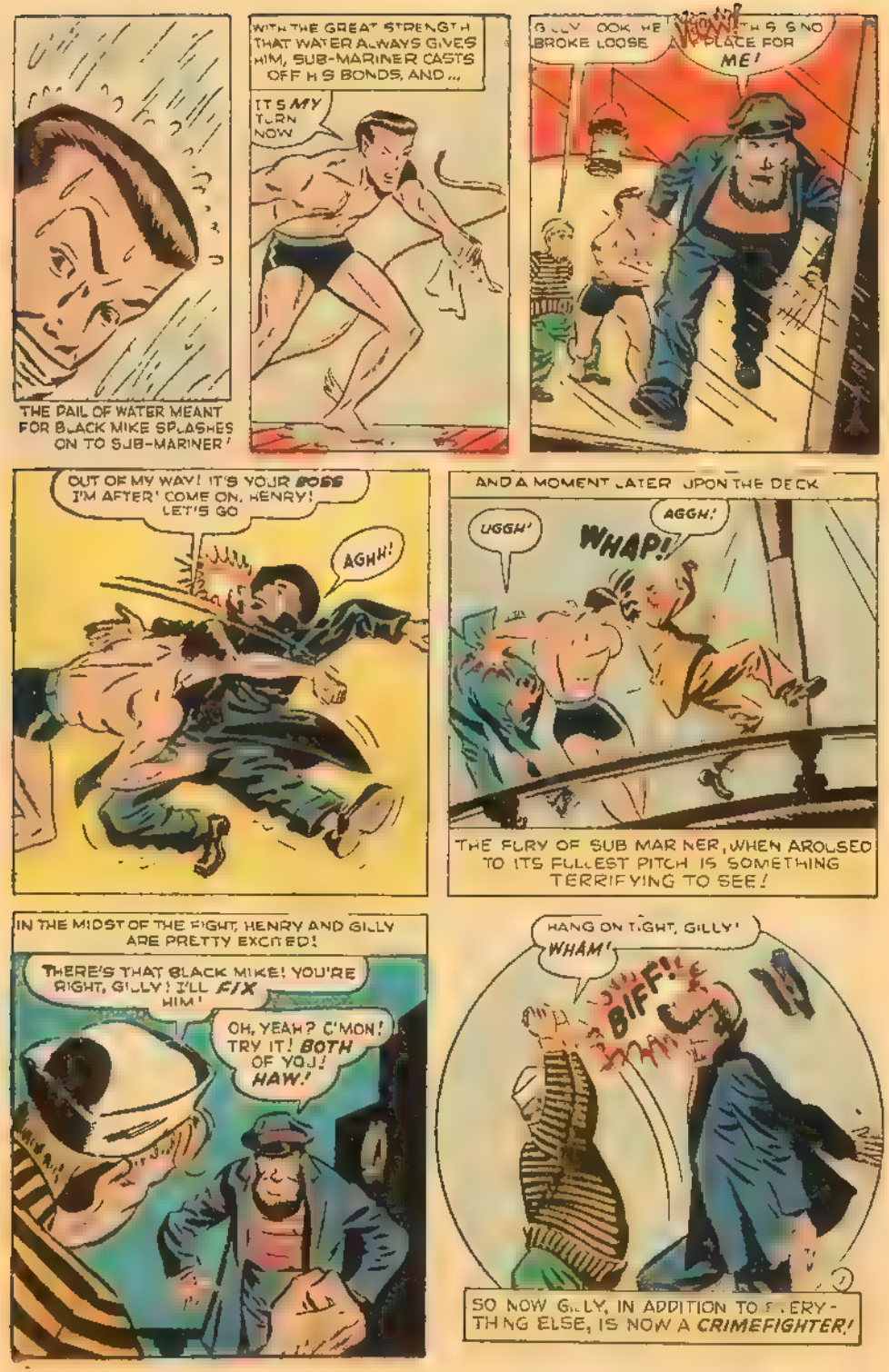

SO WE MEET AGAIN SUB-MARINER AND FOR YOU--THIS IS THE LAST TIME!
IF I COULD ONLY GET LOOSE BUT I CAN'T

AND ACROSS THE CABIN
NO, I WON'T JUMP UP AND FIGHT THEM ALL SINGLE-HANDED YOU JUST HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT I CAN'T GET YOU BACK TO DRY LAND!
I'VE NEVER SAW A CRACKPOT, HE'S T

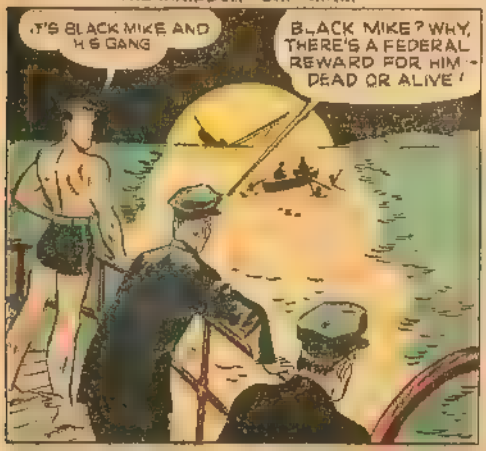
JUST A TRAWLER MAKING AN EARLY START FOR THE FISHING BANKS NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THESE MURDEROUS PIRATES

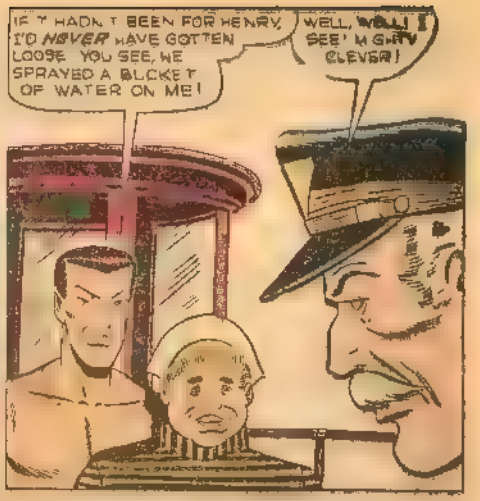

AND AT THE SAME TIME A FEW MILES DOWN THE ROCKY COAST THE MAINBOAT IS APPROACHING

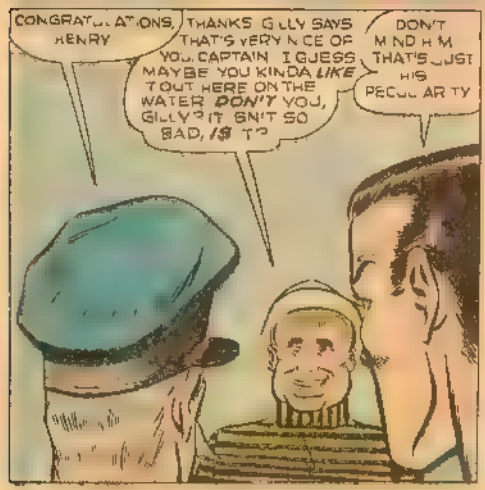
WE'LL PASS TO PORT OF THAT TRAWLER. LOOKS AS THOUGH WE MIGHT HAVE QUITE A STORM'
YES, SIR! IT DOES!
THE PIRATES ARE READY!
WHERE'S MIKE? HE OUGHTA BE UP HERE, I SHOULD THINK!
DOWN BELOW! HE'LL BE UP!
I KNOW YOU RE GETTING WET GILLY HEY, YOU! MY FRIEND GILLY'S GETTING WET CLOSE THAT HATCH!
HE SURE DOESN T LIKE WATER, DOES HE? DEAR ME HOW TERRIBLE! I'LL FIX THAT!
IF ONLY I COULD TELL THAT LITTLE FELLOW-- IF ONLY I COULD GET WET, I'D HAVE THE STRENGTH TO BREAK THESE BONDS BUT I'M GAGGED!
AND BELOW IN THE CABIN ..
IT'S CERTAINLY A DIRTY TRICK THE J.BING MIKE PULLS ON GILLY!
STOP! I KNOW YOU CAN T STAND IT, GILLY! STOP THAT, YOU D RTY VILLA N!
HA! HA HA!
A MOST HORR BLE THING! HENRY FOR-GETS HE M GHT GET A BULLET IN H M! HE MAKES A FRANTIC LEAP AND . .
STOP IT! GIVE ME THAT! YOU -YOU ROTTEN .
TAKE THAT, YOU-YOU . QUIET, GILLY! IT'S ALL R GHT NOW!

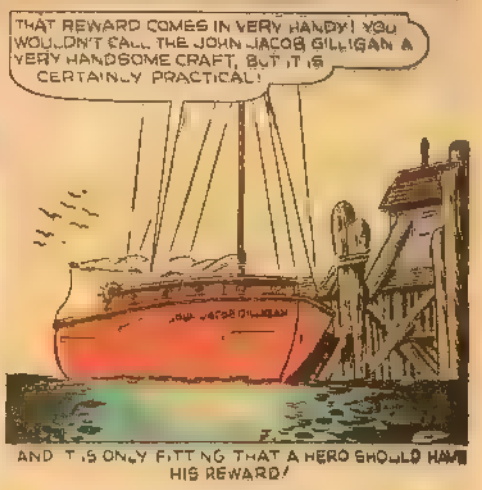

THE PAIL OF WATER MEANT FOR BLACK MIKE SPLASHES ON TO SUB-MARINER!
WITH THE GREAT STRENGTH THAT WATER ALWAYS GIVES HIM, SUB-MARINER CASTS OFF HIS BONDS, AND...
IT'S MY TURN NOW
GILLY LOOK HE BROKE LOOSE
WOW!
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR ME!
OUT OF MY WAY! IT'S YOUR BOSS I'M AFTER! COME ON, HENRY! LET'S GO
AGHH!
AND A MOMENT LATER UPON THE DECK
UGGH!
AGGH!
WHAP!
THE FURY OF SUB MARINER, WHEN AROUSED TO ITS FULLEST PITCH IS SOMETHING TERRIFYING TO SEE!
IN THE MIDST OF THE FIGHT, HENRY AND GILLY ARE PRETTY EXCITED!
THERE'S THAT BLACK MIKE! YOU'RE RIGHT, GILLY! I'LL FIX HIM!
OH, YEAH? C'MON! TRY IT! BOTH OF YOU! HAW!
HANG ON TIGHT, GILLY!
WHAM!
BIFF!
SO NOW GILLY, IN ADDITION TO EVERYTHING ELSE, IS NOW A CRIMEFIGHTER!

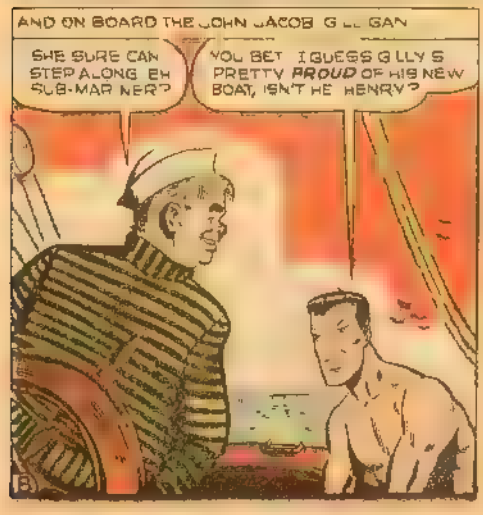
THE BATTLE ENDED, SUB-MARINER ENLIGHTENS THE MAIL-BOAT CAPTAIN...




IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR HENRY, I'D NEVER HAVE GOTTEN LOOSE YOU SEE, HE SPRAYED A BUCKET OF WATER ON ME!
WELL, WELL! I SEE! HE'S VERY CLEVER!


CONGRATULATIONS, HENRY
THANKS GILLY SAYS THAT'S VERY NICE OF YOU, CAPTAIN. I GUESS MAYBE YOU KINDA LIKE IT OUT HERE ON THE WATER DON'T YOU, GILLY? IT ISN'T SO BAD, IS IT?
DON'T MIND HIM. THAT'S JUST HIS PECULIARITY


THAT REWARD COMES IN VERY HANDY! YOU WOULDN'T CALL THE JOHN JACOB GILLIGAN A VERY HANDSOME CRAFT, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY PRACTICAL!
AND IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT A HERO SHOULD HAVE HIS REWARD!


AND ON BOARD THE JOHN JACOB GILLIGAN
SHE SURE CAN STEP ALONG EH SUB-MARINER?
YOU BET I GUESS GILLY'S PRETTY PROUD OF HIS NEW BOAT, ISN'T HE HENRY?

OH YES, GILLY'S CRAZY ABOUT THE WATER! WHAT'S THAT GILLY? OH! HE SAYS HE'LL BE HAPPY TO FIGHT CROOKS LIKE BLACK MIKE AS LONG AS YOU'RE THERE TO HELP!
THE END

SUB-MARINER IN "DECISION... NO CONTEST!"

A SPECIAL FEATURE

4155

AFTER A HECTIC WATERFRONT SEARCH, BETTY DEAN FINALLY FINDS SUB-MARINER...

SAY, NAMOR... THEY'VE SELECTED YOU AS THE JUDGE FOR THE BRIGHT BEACH BATHING BEAUTY CONTEST! SINCE I'M COVERING THE STORY, I CAN DRIVE YOU THERE, WATER BOY!

BATHING BEAUTIES? JUST LEAD ME TO THE SLAUGHTER, SCRIBBLING GIRL!

AT THE BEACH...

THERE THEY ARE, NAMOR! HOW DO YOU LIKE THEM?

WHOAH! I THOUGHT YOU SAID ***BATHING BEAUTIES!*** THESE ARE JUST...

TOTS, NAMOR? I KNOW... I FORGOT TO TELL YOU THIS IS THE ***JUVENILE DIVISION!***

SOUNDS MORE LIKE A CRYING CONTEST! OH WELL, I'LL DO MY BEST!

WAH!

MA-MA!

YAH-HH!

OH, NAMOR, THESE ARE THE MOTHERS OF THE ENTRANTS... I'M ***SURE*** YOU WANT TO MEET THEM!

OH, MR. SUB-MARINER! MY JOSEPH'S A ***DARLING***, DON'T YOU THINK?

ER... YEAH!

NO! REGINALD IS THE WINNER!

GARIBALDI!

MICHAEL!

LADIES... ***PLEASE!***

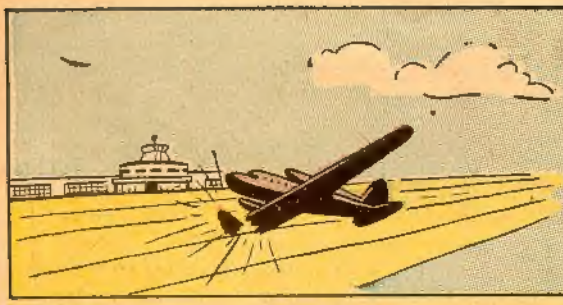
SINCE ***I'M*** THE JUDGE... ***I'LL*** DECIDE! I'LL LOOK THEM ALL OVER CAREFULLY!

JUDGE

THIS ONE'S A CUTE TYKE!

GLUG-A PUG!

GUB GLUG!
YEOW! MY EYES! MY FINGER!
UGA-GOO!
WOW! HOW CAN SUCH CUTE KIDS BE SO VICIOUS? LOOK, BETTY, I CAN'T MAKE UP MY MIND!
THEN CLOSE YOUR EYES AND POINT!
THE SUB-MARINER FOLLOWS BETTY DEAN'S SUGGESTION!
EENIE...MEENIE... MINEY, MOE! I PICK THIS ONE!
THE WINNER!
GLUK-A-BLUB!
YOU PHONEY, YOU!
MY FELIX SHOULD'VE WON!
I'LL FIX HIM!
MY SHARON WAS THE CUTEST!
YEOW! BETTY, HELP!
CHEAT!
WAIT'LL I GET MY HANDS ON HIM!
LADIES... PLEASE!
LIAR!
HE WAS BRIBED!
SUFFERIN' SEA GULLS! LET ME OUT OF HERE!
A LONG TIME LATER...
HA!HA!HA! YOU CAN COME OUT NOW, WATER BOY! THEY'VE ALL GONE!
PHEW! FROM NOW ON THE ONLY THINGS I'M JUDGING ARE FIGHTS BETWEEN PYTHONS AND TIGERS...THEY'RE SAFER!
THE END



THE LANDING

SICK with a nameless horror, Randy struggled awake. For long minutes he lay in a cold sweat, trembling with his strange illness of mind—the dream again, the same terrible dream that would not let him sleep or rest.

He clenched his fists at his sides, trying desperately to forget, but even in his waking moments he remembered. There was never any rest for him now awake or asleep. His thoughts traveled back to that moment a year ago when he was on his third flight for the airlines. On the approach to the runway he'd had a full load of passengers. Then, just as he was setting the huge twin engined ship in, a rocketing gust of wind scooped up one wing. It was too late for him to act, everything happened so quickly. There was a violent tearing crash as the low wing scraped the runway, and the ship turned a cartwheel through the air.

Randy was thrown through the front windshield and clear of the plane. Stunned with shock, unable to move, he lay there and watched it burn, hearing the cries and screams of the people trapped within. He was the only survivor.

After that he'd been washed up as a pilot. There was a black, smudgy streak on that portion of the runway where the wing had scraped, and no amount of scrubbing on the part of the airport workmen had been able to remove it. On the approach run Randy could see it plainly, sticking out like a blinding red light. And once over that spot, he was helpless, staring at it with paralyzing intentness, unable to move a muscle. Twice the copilot had to take over the controls for landings to keep them from crashing again.

Randy had taken to physicals, and the flight surgeon had been very friendly toward him.

"What's the matter with me, Doc?" Randy would ask. "I just can't seem to function right on those landings."

"Nothing, Randy—at least nothing I can find. Your eyes are all right. Depth perception is perfect. Not a thing wrong with you physically. It's all in your mind."

"Yeah, I know. I guess you're right." And Randy shrugged his broad shoulders helplessly. "But what can I do about it? Whenever I see that spot on the runway, I go all to pieces inside." He rubbed his hands feverishly across his eyes as if he were trying to blot out the memory of what had happened.

"You've got to get hold of yourself, Randy, and fight this thing out. You can lick it. I know you can!"

But Randy wasn't convinced. Jackson, the airlines manager, tried to help him, but every time Randy failed to deliver the goods and the copilot had to take over the controls.

One Sunday afternoon Randy was lounging despondently in the pilot's ready room. He was staring moodily at the wall, seeing nothing in front of him, when Jackson entered.

"Hi, Randy, how's the boy?" he asked jovially, slapping him across the shoulders.

"Not so hot, chief. I'm all washed up with this flying game, and I think I'll go out somewhere and get a job as a dishwasher!"

"Well, until you do, I have a little job for you. Number 2 ship just had her engines changed. Take her around the field a few times and check the engines. A slow time job."

Randy looked at Jackson with incredulous eyes. "You mean you'll trust me with *another* ship? And one with new engines?"

"Sure, kid. There's a fellow here who wants to ride copilot with you. Name's Andrews. He's been grounded for some time and wants to get a hop in the air again. A nice guy. He's out in the ship waiting for you."

Randy walked slowly out to the ship. Its shiny silver sparkled in the afternoon sunlight, and the bright letters of the airlines' name stood out sharply on the long, tapered fuselage. He could see someone sitting in the copilot's seat. He climbed in, locked the door behind him and walked up toward the pilot's compartment.

"What say?" Randy called as he slid into the seat and buckled the safety belt across his waist.

"Not much," Andrews replied, smiling, "but it sure will seem good to get in the air again. It's been a long time for me."

"I hope you'll feel the same way when this flight is over," Randy said as he began to make his usual thorough cockpit check and to start the engines. "You may be doing a little flying before we hit old Mother Earth again."

"Not me," Andrews answered. "I'm just going along for the ride, and I'm strictly planning to enjoy the whole thing."

Signaling the men to pull the chocks, Randy eased the throttles forward and began to taxi away from the line. At the take-off point he set the brakes and began to check the cockpit once more—the magnetos, the oil pressure, fuel pressure, gas tanks. Finally he was ready to go, and he called the tower.

"Hello, Weston tower. Trans 2 ready for take-off. Test hop. Randy, pilot."

"Trans 2," the tower called back, "clear to go."

Easing the throttles forward, Randy turned the ship straight down the runway and locked his tail wheel, then steadily pushed the throttles full forward to the stops. The ship thundered down the runway, swiftly picked up speed and lifted smoothly into the air.

Andrews fumbled for the wheel switch and flipped it, and the red light on the panel came on, indicating that the wheels were up. Randy wheeled the big ship to the left, then to the right and out of the pattern of the field.

Once clear, his fears seemed to vanish as he put the ship through the engine tests. After thirty minutes he returned to the field and prepared to land. But on the last turn to the approach he began to stare straight ahead as the fatal spot on the runway came into view. Five hundred feet from the ground he knew he couldn't make it.

"You'd better take it," he said to Andrews. "I can't set her in!"

Andrews was sitting easily, his arms relaxed, looking down at the fast approaching ground. "I just came along for the ride," he said casually. "You land it."

At the last instant Randy shoved the throttles, and the plane picked up speed, barely missing the ground. His hands were shaking as though he had a chill, but his forehead was beaded with perspiration. He swung the plane around for another try at a landing, his face grim with inner fear.

Again, just short of the ground he lost his nerve. "Take it!" he shouted at Andrews. But Andrews just smiled gently and didn't move.

Helplessly, Randy went around the field again, but this time he was angry clear through—at himself, but mostly at Andrews. "All right," he said to Andrews, "I'll land this baby myself!"

And he did! The plane hit the runway with a little screeching sound in a perfect three point landing. Suddenly Randy knew that he could do it again any time he wanted to! Feeling like a million dollars, he taxied up to the chocks, and without waiting for Andrews, he jumped out of the plane and ran to where Jackson was waiting.

"I did it!" he shouted excitedly. "Landed 'er myself, sweet as a whistle!"

They shook hands. "I knew you could, kid. Now you'd better go back and help Andrews out of the plane."

"Help him out? What do you mean?" Randy was puzzled.

Jackson smiled. "Andrews was a captain in the Air Corps. Flew a B-17. He was hit by ack-ack. It severed his optic nerves. He's stone-blind!"

The words spun around Randy as he realized what Andrews had done for him, what iron nerve and calm it must have taken for him to sit there while he landed—because Andrews must have known about his fear! And suddenly he was more grateful and humble than he had ever been before.

With a great thankfulness in his heart, he ran back to the plane and helped Andrews, still sitting, to the ground.

THE END

SL—3510